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MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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Cover: Immature Black-legged Kittiwake at North Beach, Calvert Co., Md., Nov. 1, 1985. Photo by Jim Stasz.



FIRST BALTIMORE COUNTY RECORD OF BLACK-NECKED STILT

HANK KAESTNER

On May 25, 1986, I was birding on Hart-Miller Island, the dredge spoil impoundment about one mile east of Miller's Island in the Baltimore County section of Chesapeake Bay. After five hours of hiking along the dike we (myself, Bob Dixon, Bob Ringler, Rick Blom and others) were coming back along the crossdike toward the western edge of the impoundment. Through my 12x Nikon binoculars I spotted a flock of eight American Avocets (*Recurvirostra americana*) about one mile away along the southwest corner of the south impoundment. I notified the others and we realized we would be much closer to the avocets at the point where our boat was tied up. As we quickened our pace (this was, after all, a good bird for Baltimore County, and the first record for the year), I *jokingly* said to Bob Dixon that I had also observed a large all black-winged shorebird in the same flock, teasingly referring to a Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*), one of our "dream" birds.

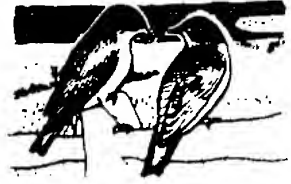
When we got about 200 yards from the avocets, which were walking along the muddy margin of a spit of land due east of our vantage point, the telescopes went up. While the other observers studied the different bill lengths of male and female avocets I began to scan to the left. Imagine my thoughts when I saw an avocet-sized shorebird with black wings and long red legs!! "I've got a stilt!" I shouted, and all the other telescopes immediately sought out my new discovery.

The time was about 2:30 p.m. The stilt was about 200 yards away. The weather was good with slightly overcast skies. The sun was at our backs, making for good viewing. Various telescopes were used, including Bob Ringler's ever-present Questar. The bird was about the size of the nearby avocets and was black on the top of the head, back of the neck, the back, and wings. The rest of the bird was pure white. The bill, though difficult to see at that distance, was medium length, thin, and black. Most evident were the extremely long, bright red legs, longer than the legs of the avocets. In fact, the more dainty body of the stilt, placed on such long thin legs gave the impression that the body was airborne.

We observed the stilt for about 45 minutes. On June 1, 1986, another group was able to return and saw the bird again. At this time Bob Ringler was able to take recognizable photographs.

A possible explanation for the appearance of the stilt in the upper Bay is that it overshot its breeding (?) ground at Deal Island in Somerset County. There are spring records as far north as southern Canada.

322 Pressway Road, Timonium MD 21093



THE SEASON

Spring Migration, March 1-May 31, 1986

ROBERT F. RINGLER

Drought seemed to be the most interesting part of the weather affecting bird distribution in the state this spring. It was warm and dry for the entire season, again reducing water levels in local reservoirs and providing habitat for otherwise rare water birds. The mild conditions, combined with the lack of significant frontal systems, produced what many observers felt was a rather dull passerine migration. Many insectivorous species were early in arriving this year and the flights were so dispersed that large concentrations of birds were rare.

Abbreviations: D.C.—District of Columbia, Patuxent NAS—Patuxent River Naval Air Station, Patuxent WRC—Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, WMA—Wildlife Management Area. A “+” after a name indicates that there were other observers in addition to those named. All banding and pelagic records are credited to the observers noted below and are not repeated in the text.

Observers: Garrett—Connie Skipper, Sallie Thayer; Allegany—Ray Kiddy, Teresa Simons; Washington—Alice Mallonee, Sam Shoemaker; Frederick—David Wallace; Baltimore—Bob Dixon, Kye Jenkins, Hank Kaestner, Barbara Ross (banding at St. Timothy's near Stevenson with Fred Arnold), Steve Simon, Charlie Swift, Jim Wilkinson, Ben Yokel; Harford—Dennis Kirkwood, Bob Schutsky; Howard—Jon K. Boone, Monika Botsai, Martha Chestem, Eileen & John Clegg, Chuck Dupree, Jane Farrell, Alice Fazekas, Jane & Ralph Geuder, Anne & Ken Hart, Dave Harvey, Dick Hegner, Jim Hill, David Holmes, Paul Leifer, Mike Leumas, Chris Ludwig, Grazina & Mike McClure, Marjorie Mountjoy, Jim Orgain, David Pardoe, Fran Schoenberger, Jo Solem, Chuck & Linda Stirrat, Mark Wallace, Don & Martha Waugh, Paul Zucker; Montgomery—Larry Bonham, Margaret Donnalld (banding at Adventure Sanctuary), Michael & Paul O'Brien, Robert W. Warfield; District of Columbia—David Czaplak, Robert Hilton; Prince Georges—Wally Sumner; Anne Arundel—Chris Beaton, Greg Kearns, Wayne Klockner, Dotty Mumford, Sue Ricciardi; Charles—Paul Nistico; Calvert—Walter Kraus, Jim Stasz; St. Marys—Mike Bryan, Kyle Rambo, Ron Runkles, Erika Wilson; Kent—Jim & Trish Gruber, Floyd Parks; Caroline—Ethel Engle, Connie, Jerry, Robert & Roberta Fletcher, Inez Glime, Marvin Hewitt, Alicia Knotts, Mariana Nuttle, Essie Pepper, L.T. Short, I. & M. Todd; Lower Eastern Shore—George & Henry Armistead, Lynn Davidson, Sam Dyke, Greg Gough, Mike McCaffrey, Paul Pisano, Mike Resch, Paul Spitzer, Chris Witt; Pelagic Trips—Hal Wierenga.

Loons, Grebes. Stasz noted single **Red-throated Loons** on five dates from March 16 through May 3 in Calvert County. All were in non-breeding plumage as were all others reported. These included 2 at Ocean City from April 13 through May 3 (Ringler +) with at least 1 through May 27 (Penelope Swenson), 1 on the Potomac River in DC on May 9 (Czaplak), 1 in Baltimore on May 11 (Ringler), 1 off Assateague on May 31 (Gough) and 1 at Jug Bay on May 31 and June 1 (Ellen Mulvey, Greg Kearns +), probably all non-breeding stragglers. In addition 7 were seen on the April 25 pelagic trip from Ocean City and 1 on the May 11 trip. A **Common Loon** in breeding plumage at Piney Run on March 30 (Ringler) was the first inland migrant noted; the biggest flight was 200 at Fort Smallwood on April 8 (Wierenga) and the largest flock on the water was a raft of 225 off North Beach on April 19 (Stasz, Ringler). All of the latter birds were in breeding plumage, well offshore. The central part of Chesapeake Bay is probably a major staging area for loons before their overland migration flights begin. Other **Common Loons** of note were 36 off Howell Point, Kent County on May 1 (Gruber), 1 at Rocky Gap on May 13 (Simons), late for the western part of the state, and 1 heard flying over Palmer State Park on May 24 (Kirkwood +). On the pelagic trips the tally of **Common Loons** was 69 on April 25, 172 on April 26, 31 on May 4, 41 on May 11, and 4 on May 15. **Pied-billed Grebes** were poorly reported with the most being 7 at Piney Run on March 15 (Ringler) and 4 on Deep Creek Lake, April 2-18 (Skipper). Another at Lilypons on May 18 (O'Briens) was likely to be breeding. Also staging for spring migration in central Chesapeake Bay were **Horned Grebes** as noted by Stasz again who estimated 400 off Scientist Cliffs on March 16 and 600 off the Chesapeake Beach—North Beach area during the last week of that month. On the other side of the bay Armistead estimated 130 near Bellevue on March 27. Late migrants were single birds at Rocky Gap on May 6 (Simons), in Sinepuxent Bay on May 10 (M. O'Brien +) and off Assateague on May 31 (Gough). The only **Red-necked Grebes** reported were singles at Rocky Gap, March 9-21 (Simons +), and at Seneca on the extraordinary date of May 4 (Warfield +). Kraus picked out 2 **Eared Grebes** from the flock at North Beach on March 22 and 27.

Pelagics. Five pelagic trips ranged out from Ocean City from late April to mid-May. A **Northern Fulmar** was seen on the April 26 trip, 2 on May 11 and 11 on May 15, extraordinarily late for this latitude. **Sooty Shearwaters** numbered 19 on April 26, 2 on May 4, 1 on May 11 and 2 on May 15. Single **Manx Shearwaters** were seen on April 26 and May 15. There were 194 **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** counted on the April 26 trip, 399 on May 11 and 110 on May 15 with 1 **Leach's Storm-Petrel** on the latter excursion. **Northern Gannets** were seen each time out with 69 on April 25, 19 on April 26, 26 on May 4, 37 on May 11, and 2 on May 15. Seen from shore were a **Wilson's Storm-Petrel** off Assateague on May 31 (Gough) and gannets totaling 89 at Ocean City on April 6 and 50 on May 10 (O'Brien +). There were several sightings of gannets in Chesapeake Bay, with 1 at Smith Island on March 6 (Viva Pizer), 5 adults at the Choptank light near Oxford on March 30 and 1 adult there the next day (Armisteads), and 2 flying north past North Beach on May 2 (Stasz).

Pelicans, Cormorants. Sightings of **Brown Pelicans** off Assateague during May were 2 immatures on the 3rd (Resch), 8 on the 29th (Bonham) and 7 on the 31st (Gough). A single **Great Cormorant** in breeding plumage was at Point Lookout on March 29 (Davidson). Gruber saw the first migrant **Double-crested Cormorant** of the season off Swan Point on March 17 and also noted 156 flying north past Pooles Island on April 1. The biggest migration in the bay was 700 on Tangier Sound on April 12 (M. O'Brien, Gough); other high counts were 115 at Point

Lookout on April 3 (Wilson), 26 in DC on April 14 (Czaplak), 125 near Bellevue on April 19 (Armisteads, Witt) and 275 roosting at Hart - Miller on May 25 (Ringler +). Inland reports of Double-crested Cormorants were 2 at Dover Bridge near Tanyard on April 18 (Engle), 1 immature at Beltsville on April 23 (Sumner), 1 at Rocky Gap on April 30 (Simons), 1 at Seneca on May 2 (Warfield), 8 at Denton on May 15 (Nuttall) and 4 flying over Sugarloaf Mountain on May 17 (D. Wallace).

Heron, Ibis. The best report of **American Bitterns** was 5 at Deal Island WMA on March 28 (Gough, M. O'Brien). Other reports were birds at Pinto Marsh in Allegany County, April 11-27 with 3 on the 12th (Simons), 1 at Ocean City on April 13 (Ringler +), in Charles County on April 20 (Nistico) and 2 at Masonville in Baltimore on the latter date (Ringler), in Howard County on May 3 with 1 at Glenelg (McClures) and another along Hammond Branch (Solem, Farrell), 1 at Rockville on May 4 (M. O'Brien) and finally 1 at Jug Bay on May 7 (Kearns). A **Least Bittern** had returned to Hughes Hollow on May 9 (M. O'Brien). Migrant **Great Blue Herons** are sometimes difficult to detect but migration was suggested by 14 at Lilypons on March 8 (Ringler) and a flock of 6 flying northeast over Pinto Marsh on March 29 (Simons, Ringler). An extremely early **Great Egret** was at Upper Marlboro on March 6 (Stasz), and another in DC on March 20 (Czaplak) was also early there. A **Great Egret** was on Assateague on March 28 and 7 were at Deal Island WMA the same day (Gough, M.O'Brien). At the latter site the count was 35 **Great Egrets** on April 6 (M. & P. O'Brien). Other **Great Egrets** of interest were 1 at Point Lookout on April 3 (Wilson), 2 at Pinto Marsh on April 5 (Simons), 1 at Cove Point in Calvert County on April 19 (Stasz, Ringler), 1 at Loch Raven in Baltimore County on April 24 (Simon), 1 near Cherry Glade Swamp in Garrett County on May 3 (Skipper), 8 in Anne Arundel County at Jug Bay on May 22 (Mumford, Ricciardi), and 1 at Ashland near Loch Raven on May 27 (Simon). The first reports of **Snowy Egrets** were in Calvert County on April 2 (Stasz) and 7 at Deal Island WMA on April 6 (M. & P. O'Brien), and these were followed by others such as 5 near Bellevue in Talbot County on April 20 (Armistead), 7 in Wicomico County on May 4 (Ringler), 4 at North Beach on May 17 (Stasz, Ringler) and 6 at Tanyard on May 20 (Engle). Unusual as well as early were 2 adult **Little Blue Herons** in Baltimore on April 5 (Ringler). A **Little Blue** was at Deal Island WMA on April 6 (M. & P. O'Brien), 1 at Cove Point on April 12 (Stasz), an immature at Piscataway Creek on May 17 (Nistico), an adult at Fishing Creek Marsh in Calvert County also on May 17 (Stasz, Ringler), and 1 in calico plumage at Lake Elkhorn in Howard County on May 30 (Hill).

Three early **Tricolored Herons** were at Deal Island WMA on March 28 (Gough, M. O'Brien); in Calvert County there was 1 at Fishing Creek Marsh, 1 at Flag Ponds and 3 at Cove Point on May 17 (Stasz, Ringler). A very early **Cattle Egret** was at Blackwater Refuge on March 15 (Gough, M. O'Brien); the next sightings were at unusual localities: 1 in western Howard County on April 4 (Hart) and in Harford County on April 5 (Kirkwood). Other **Cattle Egrets** of interest were at Patuxent NAS on April 8 (Rambo), 1 in DC on April 17 with a peak count of 14 there on May 8 and 2 late birds on May 14 (Czaplak), 15 flying northeast over North Beach on April 17 (Stasz, Ringler), 32 at Havre de Grace on April 18 (Gruber), 2 flying north northeast over Rockville on April 28 (M. O'Brien) and 9 near Clarksville on May 7 (M. Wallace). Czaplak counted 24 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** with 10 active nests on March 30 at the National Zoo in D.C. The O'Briens estimated 110 **Black-crowns** at Deal Island WMA on April 6. Inland there were 3 sightings of single adult **Black-crowns** (perhaps the same bird) in Columbia. These were at Lake Elkhorn on April 13 (Orgain), Wilde Lake on April

20 (Farrell) and Centennial Lake on May 3 (Leumas). Another Black-crown was seen at Seneca on May 8 (Bonham). Notable reports of Glossy Ibis were 73 at Deal Island WMA on April 6 (O'Briens), 20 at Bishopville in Worcester County and 2 at Tanyard in Caroline County on April 13 (Ringler +), at Fort Smallwood on April 20 (Klockner), 3 at Upper Marlboro on April 21 (Stasz), 1 at Jug Bay on April 23 (Ricciardi, Beaton), 3 at Beltsville on April 28-29 (Sumner), 1 at Hart-Miller on May 10 (Ringler, Blom, Dixon) and 1 at Cove Point on May 17 (Stasz, Ringler).

Swans, Geese. Though some movement of Tundra Swans was noted in early March the majority of birds seemed to leave the state in the middle of the month. Gruber noted 4000 flying north over Rock Hall on March 3 and estimated 12,000 near Chestertown on March 9, about 18,000 there on the 12th and 25,000 on the 17th. In other parts of the state Dixon saw 225 over Sparks in northern Batlmore County on March 12 and another 180 on the 18th, 125 were at Piney Run on March 15 (Ringler), 166 over Noland's Ferry in Frederick County on March 16 (Warfield), and 125 at Rocky Gap on March 17 (Simons); 7 stragglers were at Massey in Kent County on April 15 (Gruber, Parks). Wandering Tundra Swans seen in May which are likely non-breeding strays were 2 at Jug Bay on the 2nd (Ricciardi, Beaton), 1 at Cissel's Farm in Howard County on May 3 (M. Wallace) and 1 at Hart-Miller on May 10 (Ringler, Dixon, Blom). Out-of-place Mute Swans were single birds at North Branch in Allegany County on April 8 (Simons), a flying bird in Howard County on April 10 (M. Wallace) and an adult at Beltsville from April 23 through May 13 (Sumner). There were 12 Snow Geese on the Potomac at Fort Washington on March 22 (J. Abbott), 100 at Massey on April 15 (Gruber, Parks) and 4 (3 adults with 1 immature) near Snow Hill on May 3 (Resch). The main spring flight of Snow Geese seems to go to the northeast and usually goes unnoticed in Maryland. The last reports of Brant for the season were a very unusual 3 at Plum Point, Calvert County on May 3 (John Fales) and 17 at Ocean City on May 4 (Ringler). The Grubers noted the main flight of Canada Geese with 20,000 flying north at Rock Hall on March 3 and 30,000 flying north over Chestertown on March 10. Inland there were 1500 Canadas at Piney Run on March 15 (Ringler). Nesting activities by Canada Geese included a pair on a nest near Willards in Wicomico County on April 13 (Ringler +), 2 downy young among 12 birds on Loch Raven on May 3 (Simon, Jenkins) and 4 downy young on a farm pond near Betheden Church in Worcester County on May 3 (Ringler).

Dabbling Ducks. Two Wood Ducks on the Potomac at Mountain Lock in Washington County on March 2 (Ringler) were early for that part of the state. At Harford Glen on May 18 there were 2 hen Wood Ducks shepherding 14 downy young (Ringler). The highest concentration of Green-winged Teal reported was 400 at Jug Bay on March 23 and April 2 (Mumford +); late migrants on May 4 were at New Road Landing in Wicomico County and the Easton sewage lagoons (Ringler). High counts of Black Ducks were 275 at Swan Point, Kent County on March 22 (Gruber) and 500 at Jug Bay on March 23 (Mumford +). High counts of Mallards were 105 on the Mountain Lake sewage lagoons on March 16 (Skipper) and 600 at Swan Point on March 22 (Gruber); a female was on a nest with 8 eggs at Masonville in Baltimore on April 5 (Ringler). Northern Pintails in Kent County on March 22 numbered 250 at Swan Point (Gruber) and 25 at Remington Farms (Ringler +). Pardoe found a late pintail near Daisy in Howard County on May 3. Early Blue-winged Teal were a drake at Upper Marlboro on March 8 (Ringler) and 4 on March 11 at North Branch, where there were 23 on April 12 (Simons). The most Blue-wings seen at one location were 30 at the Mountain Lake sewage lagoons on April 19 (Skipper); late birds were 1 at Loch Raven on May 11 (Simon).

Table 1. Median Spring Arrival and Departure Dates, Spring 1986

Species	Arrivals 10-Yr 1986		Departures 10-Yr 1986	
Common Loon	4/4	4/5	5/13	5/12
Pied-billed Grebe	3/15	3/15	5/4	4/23
Horned Grebe	3/20	3/8	5/4	4/30
Double-crested Cormorant	4/4	4/1	5/29	6/13
American Bittern	4/13	4/8	5/4	5/3
Great Egret	4/8	3/30	-	-
Snowy Egret	4/12	4/6	-	-
Little Blue Heron	4/20	4/6	-	-
Cattle Egret	4/12	4/8	-	-
Green-backed Heron	4/17	4/22	-	-
Glossy Ibis	4/10	4/13	-	-
Tundra Swan	3/2	3/2	4/7	3/17
Snow Goose	-	2/22	4/4	4/15
Canada Goose	2/26	2/27	-	-
Wood Duck	3/6	3/2	-	-
Green-winged Teal	3/18	3/13	4/28	4/28
Northern Pintail	3/4	2/23	4/1	4/5
Blue-winged Teal	3/21	3/19	5/5	5/11
Northern Shoveler	3/16	3/13	4/11	4/8
Gadwall	3/13	3/8	4/29	4/20
American Wigeon	3/7	3/10	4/19	4/20
Canvasback	3/1	3/1	4/5	4/12
Redhead	3/5	3/1	3/27	3/27
Ring-necked Duck	3/6	3/8	4/16	4/22
Greater Scaup	-	-	4/3	4/28
Lesser Scaup	3/7	3/2	4/29	4/27
Oldsquaw	3/20	3/18	4/11	4/13
Black Scoter	-	-	4/25	4/30
Surf Scoter	-	-	5/1	3/28
White-winged Scoter	-	-	4/23	4/10
Common Goldeneye	2/25	2/23	4/8	4/19
Bufflehead	3/6	3/14	4/30	4/27
Hooded Merganser	3/8	3/8	4/16	4/12
Common Merganser	3/3	2/17	4/8	3/22
Red-breasted Merganser	3/18	3/15	5/5	5/13
Ruddy Duck	3/19	3/20	5/5	5/11
Osprey	3/23	3/15	-	-
Northern Harrier	3/6	3/1	5/5	5/4
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3/11	3/16	-	5/6
Cooper's Hawk	3/13	3/13	-	5/6
Broad-winged Hawk	4/15	4/16	-	-
Rough-legged Hawk	-	-	4/3	4/5
Merlin	4/1	3/26	-	5/4
Sora	4/26	4/3	-	5/14
Common Moorhen	4/29	4/25	-	-
American Coot	3/17	3/19	5/3	4/20
Black-bellied Plover	-	-	5/25	6/21
Semipalmated Plover	5/5	5/3	5/27	6/20
Killdeer	2/27	3/1	-	-
Greater Yellowlegs	3/29	3/29	5/11	5/22
Lesser Yellowlegs	4/7	4/12	5/10	5/15
Solitary Sandpiper	4/20	4/20	5/15	5/22
Spotted Sandpiper	4/22	4/19	5/26	5/31
Ruddy Turnstone	-	-	5/31	6/15

Table 1 (cont.). Median Spring Arrival and Departure Dates, Spring 1986

Species	Arrivals 10-Yr 1986		Departures 10-Yr 1986	
Sanderling	-	-	5/21	6/8
Semipalmated Sandpiper	5/4	5/3	5/31	6/15
Least Sandpiper	4/24	4/13	5/18	5/22
White-rumped Sandpiper	-	-	6/1	6/17
Pectoral Sandpiper	4/2	3/29	5/4	5/7
Dunlin	4/19	4/1	5/27	6/8
Short-billed Dowitcher	5/2	4/22	5/26	6/15
Common Snipe	3/14	3/21	5/4	5/4
American Woodcock	3/1	3/10	-	-
Laughing Gull	4/2	4/3	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	3/30	3/28	5/3	5/3
Ring-billed Gull	-	-	5/10	5/5
Caspian Tern	4/16	4/8	6/7	5/16
Royal Tern	4/20	4/19	-	-
Common Tern	4/20	4/14	-	-
Forster's Tern	4/24	4/12	-	-
Least Tern	5/4	5/3	-	-
Black Tern	-	-	5/20	6/15
Black-billed Cuckoo	5/7	5/9	-	-
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	5/3	5/5	-	-
Common Nighthawk	5/7	5/7	-	-
Whip-poor-will	4/22	4/26	-	-
Chimney Swift	4/16	4/15	-	-
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	4/30	4/24	-	-
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3/28	3/27	5/2	4/26
Eastern Wood-Pewee	5/4	5/3	-	-
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	-	-	-	5/28
Acadian Flycatcher	5/2	5/3	-	-
Willow Flycatcher	5/17	5/19	-	-
Least Flycatcher	5/4	5/3	-	5/24
Eastern Phoebe	3/17	3/15	-	-
Great Crested Flycatcher	5/1	4/29	-	-
Eastern Kingbird	4/24	4/26	-	-
Purple Martin	3/30	3/29	-	-
Tree Swallow	3/27	3/15	-	-
N. Rough-winged Swallow	4/9	4/2	-	-
Bank Swallow	4/23	4/13	-	-
Cliff Swallow	4/25	4/26	-	-
Barn Swallow	4/5	3/29	-	-
Red-breasted Nuthatch	-	-	5/3	5/3
Brown Creeper	3/25	3/24	4/26	4/26
House Wren	4/20	4/20	-	-
Winter Wren	-	-	4/22	4/20
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3/25	3/23	4/11	4/12
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4/10	4/12	5/7	5/11
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	4/10	4/10	-	-
Veery	5/1	5/1	5/22	5/22
Gray-cheeked Thrush	5/11	5/16	5/23	5/31
Swainson's Thrush	5/4	5/1	5/25	5/29
Hermit Thrush	4/12	4/4	5/6	5/3
Wood Thrush	4/24	4/27	-	-
American Robin	2/22	2/18	-	-
Gray Catbird	4/26	4/28	-	-
Brown Thrasher	4/9	4/12	-	-

Table 1 (cont.). Median Spring Arrival and Departure Dates, Spring 1986

Species	Arrivals 10-Yr 1986		Departures 10-Yr 1986	
Water Pipit	-	-	5/4	5/3
White-eyed Vireo	4/19	4/20	-	-
Solitary Vireo	4/22	4/13	5/6	5/3
Yellow-throated Vireo	4/30	4/29	-	-
Warbling Vireo	4/29	4/28	-	-
Red-eyed Vireo	4/26	4/27	-	-
Blue-winged Warbler	4/29	4/28	5/12	5/13
Golden-winged Warbler	5/2	4/29	5/11	5/13
Tennessee Warbler	5/3	5/6	5/22	5/17
Nashville Warbler	5/1	4/29	5/16	5/16
Northern Parula	4/20	4/18	-	-
Yellow Warbler	4/25	4/26	-	-
Chestnut-sided Warbler	5/3	4/29	5/19	5/22
Magnolia Warbler	5/3	5/3	5/24	5/29
Cape May Warbler	5/3	5/3	5/16	5/24
Black-throated Blue Warbler	5/2	5/1	5/18	5/23
Yellow-rumped Warbler	4/13	4/3	5/15	5/12
Black-throated Green Warbler	4/30	5/3	5/18	5/24
Blackburnian Warbler	5/3	5/3	5/21	5/17
Yellow-throated Warbler	4/16	4/12	-	-
Cerulean Warbler	5/1	4/27	-	-
Pine Warbler	3/17	3/16	-	-
Prairie Warbler	4/23	4/27	-	-
Palm Warbler	4/13	4/4	5/4	5/5
Bay-breasted Warbler	5/6	5/3	5/24	5/23
Blackpoll Warbler	5/5	5/7	5/29	6/1
Black-and-white Warbler	4/19	4/14	-	-
American Redstart	4/27	4/27	5/30	5/31
Prothonotary Warbler	4/22	4/26	-	-
Worm-eating Warbler	4/29	4/26	-	-
Ovenbird	4/22	4/19	-	-
Northern Waterthrush	4/29	4/29	5/24	5/29
Louisiana Waterthrush	4/8	4/5	-	-
Kentucky Warbler	5/1	5/3	-	-
Mourning Warbler	5/18	5/22	5/30	5/29
Common Yellowthroat	4/20	4/19	-	-
Hooded Warbler	4/28	4/28	-	-
Wilson's Warbler	5/6	5/9	5/20	5/28
Canada Warbler	5/7	5/4	5/27	6/1
Yellow-breasted Chat	5/1	4/30	-	-
Summer Tanager	5/2	5/3	-	-
Scarlet Tanager	4/29	4/30	-	-
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5/2	5/2	5/20	5/28
Blue Grosbeak	5/1	4/29	-	-
Indigo Bunting	4/30	4/30	-	-
Rufous-sided Towhee	3/24	3/30	-	-
American Tree Sparrow	-	-	3/21	3/18
Chipping Sparrow	4/3	3/25	-	-
Vesper Sparrow	4/7	3/30	-	-
Savannah Sparrow	3/29	3/31	5/8	5/10
Grasshopper Sparrow	4/30	4/26	-	-
Fox Sparrow	2/27	2/20	4/4	3/27
Lincoln's Sparrow	5/8	5/4	5/23	5/21
Swamp Sparrow	4/9	4/1	5/9	5/10

Table 1 (cont.). Median Spring Arrival and Departure Dates, Spring 1986

Species	Arrivals 10-Yr 1986		Departures 10-Yr 1986	
White-throated Sparrow	-	-	5/12	5/17
White-crowned Sparrow	-	-	5/8	5/10
Dark-eyed Junco	-	-	5/3	5/3
Bobolink	5/2	5/2	5/20	5/25
Red-winged Blackbird	2/20	2/9	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	3/15	3/10	5/4	4/29
Common Grackle	2/18	2/22	-	-
Brown-headed Cowbird	2/27	2/21	-	-
Orchard Oriole	4/29	4/28	-	-
Northern Oriole	4/29	4/28	-	-
Purple Finch	-	-	5/7	5/3
Pine Siskin	-	-	5/6	5/15
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	5/6	5/12

Jenkins), a drake at Masonville on the latter date (Ringler) and 1 at Jug Bay on May 17 (Ricciardi, Beaton +). Interesting reports of **Northern Shovelers** were 7 at North Branch on March 24 (Simons), 50 at Deal Island WMA on March 28 (Gough, M. O'Brien), 50 at Blackwater on March 29 (Armistead +), and 2 very late birds at Hart-Miller on May 10, which were joined by 4 equally late **Gadwalls** (Ringler, Blom, Dixon). A pair of **Gadwalls** at Jug Bay on May 7 (Kearns) was also late. High counts of **American Wigeon** were 21 at Rocky Gap on March 19 (Simons) and 133 at Swan Point on March 22 (Gruber); late individuals were 2 at Hurlock on May 4 (Ringler) and a drake at Hart-Miller on May 25 (Ringler +).

Aythya Ducks. **Canvasbacks** typically leave during the middle of March and this year was no exception. At Masonville, a staging area in Baltimore, the count was 700 on the 9th of March, 30 on the 23rd and 4 on the 30th (Ringler). Late migrant **Canvasbacks** were at Piscataway on April 27 (Nistico) and in Montgomery County on April 28 (Bonham). **Canvasbacks** that appeared to be attempting to spend the summer in Maryland were 4 near Berlin and 1 at Sandy Point, all of which were still present at the end of the period (M. O'Brien +). Peak counts of **Redheads** were in mid-March with 15 at Gaithersburg on the 8th (O'Briens), 8 at Upper Marlboro the same day (Ringler) and 30 at Piney Run on the 15th (Davidson, Gough, M. O'Brien). There were 2 **Redheads** at North Branch in Allegany County on March 17 (Simons) and a late migrant was in Howard County on April 5 (Chestem). High counts of **Ring-necked Ducks** were rather modest figures this spring with 60 at Gaithersburg on March 1 (Bonham), 75 at Lilypons on March 8 (M. O'Brien +), 200 at Piney Run on March 15 (Ringler), 56 at Remington Farms on March 16 (Grubers), 32 at Deep Creek Lake on March 26 (Skipper) and 97 at Deal Island WMA on March 28 (Gough, M. O'Brien); late migrants were single drakes at the Hurlock and Easton sewage lagoons on May 4 (Ringler). Reports of **Greater Scaup** were in Charles County on March 30 (Nistico), 6 at Rocky Gap where exceptionally rare on April 22-23 (Simons) and 2 late birds in Swan Creek in Kent County on May 9 (Gruber). The masses of **Lesser Scaup** generally leave during the second half of March and early April, but the species is so common that many linger later. This spring the tally at Masonville was 800 on March 9, 6400 on March 23, 285 on March 30, 45 on April 5, and 3 on April 20 (Ringler). Other notable numbers of **Lesser Scaup** were 6000 off Kent Island near

the Bay Bridge on March 5 (Gruber), 72 at Rocky Gap on March 19 (Simons), 105 in St. Jeromes Creek on March 24 (Wilson), 750 near Bellevue on March 28-29 (Armistead), 30 at the Mountain Lake sewage lagoons on April 12 (Skipper), hundreds on the Patuxent River below Broomes Island on April 19 (Stasz, Ringler) and 380 at Hart - Miller on April 20 (Ringler +). Gruber also estimated a flock of 6000 scaup of both species at Pooles Island on April 1.

Other Diving Ducks. There were 5 female **King Eiders** remaining at Ocean City on April 13 and 1 there through May 4 (Ringler +). Quite unexpected was the immature male King Eider that Stasz photographed on the beach by his house at North Beach at dawn on May 20! The **Oldsquaw** previously reported at Lake Elkhorn in Columbia remained there through April 6 (Solem, Farrell). Oldsquaw migration got underway in mid-March with 2 at Rocky Gap on the 15th (Simons), 650 at Eastern Neck on the 17th (Gruber) and birds heard flying over Rockville on March 18-19 (M. O'Brien). Other Oldsquaw reports were 2700 near Bellevue on March 28 (Armistead), 9 on Loch Raven on April 12 (Simon), 5 in DC on April 13 (Czaplak), 4 off North Beach on April 19 (Stasz, Ringler), 2 late migrants at Cambridge on May 3 (Wilson) and a summering bird at Assateague on May 31 (Gough). Once again very few scoters were reported. Most of the **Black Scoters** seen were by pelagic trips with 25 on April 25 and 50 the next day. The only other Black Scoters were 1 at Eastern Neck on May 3 (Parks) and an immature male remaining at Ocean City through May 31 (Ringler +). **Surf Scoters** numbered 12 at Point Lookout on March 24 (Wilson) and a female was at Ocean City on May 4 (Ringler +). A drake **White-winged Scoter** was unusual on Piscataway Creek on April 6 (Nistico). There were 11 **Common Goldeneyes** on the Potomac River at Mountain Lock in Washington County on March 2 (Ringler). Late migrant goldeneyes were 3 drakes on the Patuxent River below Broomes Island on April 19 (Stasz, Ringler), a drake at Fort Smallwood on April 27 (Ringler); a drake at Masonville on May 11 (Ringler) and 3 at Hart - Miller on May 25 (Ringler +). High counts of **Buffleheads** were 450 near Bellevue on March 28 (Armistead), 100 in Curtis Bay in Baltimore on March 30 (Ringler) and 70 on Sinepuxent Bay on May 3 (Resch).

The best reports of **Hooded Mergansers** were 9 at Unity in Montgomery County on March 2 (O'Briens), 10 at West Ocean City on March 15 (Davidson, Gough, M. O'Brien), 10 on Deep Creek Lake on March 26 and 12 at Oakland on April 2 (Skipper); a late migrant female was near Berlin on April 13 (Ringler) and another female at Gibson Island on May 25 (Ricciardi) may have been summering. Late migrant **Common Mergansers** were a female at Piney Run on March 30 (Ringler), 8 at Jug Bay on April 2 (Ricciardi, Beaton), a female at Masonville on April 5 (Ringler), and 2 exceptionally late birds at Swan Creek on May 9 (Gruber). High counts of **Red-breasted Mergansers** were 25 at Piney Run on March 15 (Davidson, Gough, M. O'Brien), 35 on March 17 at Rocky Gap where the first migrant was seen on March 9 and the last 2 on May 13 (Simons), 75 at Swan Point on March 17 (Gruber), 73 at Ocean City on March 28 (Gough, M. O'Brien) and 8 remaining at Hart - Miller on May 25 (Ringler +). Gruber estimated the largest flocks of **Ruddy Ducks** with 3000 at Worton Point on March 26 and 10,000 at Pooles Island on April 1 while others of note were 450 in Curtis Bay on March 30 (Ringler), 125 in Fishing Bay on April 12 (Gough, M. O'Brien), 155 at Hurlock on April 13 with 3 drakes still there on May 31 (Ringler), 2 at Masonville on May 11 (Ringler) and a female on Boyd Pond near Fort Smallwood on May 23-28 (Ricciardi).

Diurnal Raptors. See Table 2 for the tally of migrating hawks at Monument Knob and Table 3 for Fort Smallwood. The first migrant **Turkey Vultures** in Allegany County were 3 at Potomac Park near Cumberland (Ringler) and 1 at Oldtown (Simons) with both sightings on March 2, and in Garrett County 1 over Roman Nose Mountain on March 17 (Skipper). An early **Osprey** was at Patuxent NAS on March 6 (Rambo) and 5 were at Rock Hall on March 12 (Gruber). The count in St. Marys County had reached 15 by March 24 (Wilson); inland on April 26 there were 5 over Rockville (M. O'Brien) and 10 over DC (Czaplak). On April 20 in Howard County Mark Wallace watched an Osprey being attacked by a Canada Goose. Wilkinson saw an adult **Bald Eagle** near Grasonville on April 11 and an adult was at Masonville on May 11 (Ringler). The Bald Eagle nest on Conn Island in the Potomac River in Montgomery County contained 2 young on May 5 (Anderson) and May 24 (Ringler). Gough and Mike O'Brien estimated 30

**Table 2. Migrant Raptors at Monument Knob,
Washington Monument State Park, Spring 1986**

Species	First	Last	Total	Big Days
Osprey	3/25	5/6	216	30 on 4/20, 24 on 4/25, 22 on 4/19
Bald Eagle	3/29	4/13	2	
Northern Harrier	3/9	5/7	97	14 on 4/13, 10 on 4/7, 9 on 4/12
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3/9	4/13	406	41 on 4/20, 39 on 4/13, 27 on 4/28
Cooper's Hawk	3/10	4/28	19	4 on 4/1, 3 on 4/12
Red-shouldered Hawk	3/9	5/5	89	21 on 3/18, 19 on 3/16, 14 on 3/10
Broad-winged Hawk	4/7	5/1	884	404 on 4/20, 101 on 4/21, 82 on 4/28
Red-tailed Hawk	3/2	5/7	291	48 on 3/16, 26 on 3/10, 23 on 4/7
American Kestrel	3/2	5/7	34	9 on 4/7, 4 on 3/16
Merlin	4/20	4/29	2	
Unidentified			198	
Total	3/2	5/13	2238	534 on 4/20, 139 on 4/21, 130 on 4/19

Data for this table supplied by Sam Shoemaker from many observers during 142.25 hours of observation on 51 days.

Table 3. Migrant Raptors at Fort Smallwood Park, Spring 1986

Species	First	Last	Total	Big Days
Osprey	3/15	5/6	186	31 on 4/12, 29 on 4/8, 26 on 4/26
Bald Eagle	3/15	5/4	9	2 on 3/15 and 5/4
Northern Harrier	3/9	5/4	112	38 on 4/8, 27 on 4/12, 14 on 5/2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3/9	5/6	3875	762 on 4/27, 586 on 5/2, 387 on 4/26
Cooper's Hawk	3/9	5/6	279	54 on 4/8, 42 on 5/2, 28 on 4/12
Red-shouldered Hawk	3/9	5/6	163	56 on 3/15, 34 on 3/9, 19 on 4/8
Broad-winged Hawk	4/8	5/6	286	79 on 4/8, 46 on 4/27, 42 on 4/28
Red-tailed Hawk	3/9	5/4	125	21 on 3/15, 19 on 3/9, 16 on 4/8
American Kestrel	3/9	5/3	512	234 on 4/8, 44 on 3/11, 41 on 3/15
Merlin	3/15	5/4	25	7 on 4/26, 4 on 4/12, 3 on 5/4
Unidentified			56	
Total	3/9	5/6	6594	

Data for this table supplied by Hal Wierenga from many observers including Wayne Klockner, Dave Mozurkewich, Rick Blom, Bill Murphy and others during 138 hours of observation on 28 days with an average of 2.8 observers per day.

Northern Harriers at Deal Island WMA on March 28, this figure probably including resident as well as wintering birds. Armistead counted 6 **Sharp-shinned Hawks** in southern Dorchester County on April 12, and on April 20 Orgain, Osenton and Bob Solem counted 9 cruising over Columbia in the afternoon. Wilson saw **Red-shouldered Hawks** nest-building at Hughes Hollow on March 2. On April 26 there were many **Broad-winged Hawks** in the air with 93 seen at Rockville that day (M. O'Brien) and 35 near Woodstock (Ringler +). The last reports of **Rough-legged Hawks** were 1 at Monie Marsh on March 23 (Dyke), a light-phase bird at Deal Island WMA on March 28 and another light-phase at Elliott on April 12 (Gough, M. O'Brien) and 4 in Dorchester County on the latter date (Armisteads, Spitzer). An impressive number of **Merlins** was reported beginning very early with 1 near Laytonsville on March 2 (P. O'Brien) being perhaps a wintering individual while more likely migrants were 1 at Fort Smallwood on March 15 (Wierenga) and 3 at Cove Point on March 16 (Stasz +). Others were 1 at Greensboro, April 6-13 (Hewitt), 1 at Laurel Grove in St. Marys County on April 7 and another there on May 8 (Runkles), 1 at Remington Farms on April 13 (Grubers), 1 in Prince Georges County on April 13 (Stasz), 1 at Blackwater on April 19 (Armistead, Spitzer), 1 at Swan Point on April 20 (Gruber), 1 offshore seen on the April 25 pelagic trip (Wierenga +), single birds on April 26 seen in Charles County (Nistico), Rockville (M. O'Brien), and DC (Czaplak), and a female at Hurlock on May 4 (Ringler). **Peregrine Falcon** sightings were 1 at Chestertown on April 13 (Parks), an adult in downtown DC from April 26 through May 17 (Czaplak), an immature at Ocean City on May 4 (Ringler +) which had probably wintered there, and an adult at Hart-Miller on May 25 (Ringler +).

Turkey, Rails. A **Wild Turkey** heard gobbling throughout the dawn chorus of May 3 at Mattaponi Landing in Worcester County (Ringler) was probably from the Department of Natural Resources release program in the Pocomoke State Forest. On the 12th of April 3 **Black Rails** were heard at Elliott (Armisteads +) and the high count there was 35 on May 28 (Klockner +). Klockner also heard 3 Rails on May 31 in Farm Creek Marsh in southern Dorchester County. Other birds heard on April 12 at Elliott were a **Clapper Rail** and a **King Rail** (Armisteads +). A Clapper Rail flew into the fence at Fort Smallwood during the hawk watch of April 27 and escaped before it could be captured (Wierenga +). There are few records this far north in the bay. Stasz found his first King Rail in the Calvert County marshes on April 26 and another was a road kill near Dover Bridge in Caroline County on May 12 (Engle, Hewitt). Engle heard another King Rail there on May 26. The first reports of **Virginia Rails** were in Calvert County on March 29 (Stasz), 1 at Remington Farms on April 7 (Grubers), 25 in the Elliott marshes on April 12 (Armisteads +) and 2 at Pinto Marsh on April 13 (Simons). Early **Soras** were 1 at Pinto Marsh on March 25 where there were 3 on April 13 (Simons) and 1 at Point Lookout on March 29 (Davidson). Stasz found Soras in Calvert County from April 12 through May 17 and others were 4 at Deal Island WMA on May 10 and 1 at Lilypons on May 18 (M. O'Brien +).

Moorhens and Coots. Stasz also found a **Common Moorhen** in the Fishing Creek Marshes on April 19. At Lake Elkhorn in Columbia Hegner found 1 moorhen on May 1 which was seen at least through June 4 (Hill) with 2 birds there on May 30-31. Another moorhen was seen at Lilypons on May 10 and 18 (M. O'Brien +) and 1 was heard at Tanyard on May 31 (Blom, Ringler). Interesting reports of **American Coots** were 33 at Piney Run on March 15 (Ringler), 58 at Loch Raven on March 24 (Simon), 900 at Deal Island WMA on March 28, with none being seen on April 6 (Gough, M. O'Brien), 33 at Masonville on April 5

(Ringler), 30 at Deep Creek Lake on April 2 (Skipper) and 6 at Hurlock on April 13 (Ringler).

Plovers, Oystercatchers, Stilts and Avocets. A **Black-bellied Plover** was with 5 **Lesser Golden-Plovers** at Jug Bay on March 23 (Hammer +). There were 8 Black-bellies there on May 6 (Beaton) and 2 on May 21 (Kearns). Stasz saw Black-bellies in Calvert County, May 11-26, and others were 35 at Hart—Miller on May 25 (Ringler +), 3 at Ocean City on May 31 (Ringler) and 1 at Hurlock on May 31 (Blom, Ringler). Lesser Golden-Plovers are extremely rare in spring and the only other report was 2 at Blackwater on April 6 (O'Briens). Interesting reports of **Semipalmated Plovers** were 17 at Jug Bay on May 7 (Kearns), 2 at Pinto on May 8 (Simons), 125 at Hart—Miller on May 10 (Blom, Dixon, Ringler), 1 at North Branch on May 14 (Simons), 1 at Harford Glen on May 18 (Ringler), 4 at Lilypons on May 18 (O'Briens) and 1 in Calvert County on June 4 (Stasz). The largest concentrations of **Killdeer** this spring were 36 at Jug Bay on May 7 (Kearns) and 22 at Summit Hall Turf Farm in Montgomery County on March 23 (Hilton). Runkles found a Killdeer nest with 4 eggs near Laurel Grove in St. Marys County on March 29 and there was 1 downy young at Hart—Miller on May 10 (Blom, Dixon, Ringler). There were 10 **American Oystercatchers** at Ocean City on March 15 (Davidson, Gough, M. O'Brien). Extraordinary records for the bay occurred when an adult male **Black-necked Stilt** was found at Cove Point on May 11 (Stasz) and an immature was seen at Hart—Miller on May 25 and June 1 (Kaestner +). Also at Hart—Miller on May 25 were 8 **American Avocets** in breeding plumage (Kaestner +).

Tringine Sandpipers and Curlews. The **Greater Yellowlegs** that wintered at Fort McHenry in Baltimore was seen through March 16 (Ringler). The first migrant Greater Yellowlegs were 1 in DC on March 20 (Czaplak), 5 at Jug Bay on March 23 (Ricciardi +), 1 at Chestertown on March 24 (Grubers) and 2 at the Mountain Lake sewage lagoons in Garrett County on April 5 (Skipper). High counts of Greater were 24 at New Road Landing in Wicomico County on May 4 (Ringler) and 200 at Jug Bay on May 6 (Beaton). Reports of **Lesser Yellowlegs** included 31 at North Branch on May 5 and a late migrant there on May 25 (Simons), 60 at Jug Bay on May 7 (Kearns), 75 at Hart—Miller on May 10 (Blom, Dixon, Ringler) and 2 late birds at Loch Raven on May 27 (Simon). An exceptionally early **Solitary Sandpiper** was at Ashland near Loch Raven on May 29 (Simon), and moderately early individuals were at Schooley Mill Park in Howard County on April 12 (Solems, Farrell) and at North Branch on April 16 (Simons). Unusual in Calvert County were 1 **Willet** at North Beach on May 15-17 (Stasz) and 2 at Cove Point on May 17 (Stasz, Ringler). Early **Spotted Sandpipers** were 1 at Upper Marlboro on April 13 (Stasz) and 1 at Denton on April 14 (Hewitt); high counts for the species were 50 at Jug Bay on May 4 (John Bjerke) and 30 at Hart—Miller on May 25 (Ringler +). The only **Upland Sandpipers** reported were 1 at Beltsville on April 10 and 18 (Sumner), 1 at Rockville on April 18 and 5 there on the 24th (M. O'Brien). Quite early were 2 **Whimbrels** seen on the April 26 pelagic trip out of Ocean City (Wierenga +). Other Whimbrels were 8 at Hart—Miller on May 25 (Ringler +) and 1 on Assateague on May 31 (Gough).

Turnstones and Calidridine Sandpipers. Reports of **Ruddy Turnstones** included 2 at Pinto on May 5 and 5 at North Branch on May 14 (Simons), 4 at Deal Island WMA on May 15 (Armistead), in Calvert County on May 15 (Stasz), 1 at Cove Point on May 17 (Stasz, Ringler) and 75 at Hart—Miller on May 25 (Ringler +). There were also 6 **Red Knots**, 20 **Sanderlings**, and 600 **Semipalmated Sandpipers**

at Hart – Miller on May 25 (Ringler +). Kearns counted 17 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Jug Bay on May 7. High counts of **Least Sandpipers** were 24 in DC on May 3 (Czaplak), 19 at North Branch on May 5 (Simons), 19 at Lilypons on May 13 (Wilson) and 200 at Hart – Miller on May 25 (Blom +); 2 late migrants were at Hurlock on May 31 (Blom, Ringler). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was seen at Lilypons on May 19 (Hartsell Cash), 30 at Hart – Miller on May 25 (Ringler +) and 2 at Assateague on May 31 (Gough). March reports of **Pectoral Sandpipers** were in Calvert County on the 25th (Stasz), 21 at Jug Bay on the 28th (Kearns), 1 at Pinto on the 28th (Ringler, Simons), 35 at Blackwater on the 29th (Armistead), at Piscataway on the 29th (Nistico) and 1 at Fort McHenry on the 30th (Ringler). The high count of Pectorals was 46 at Blackwater on April 12 (Gough, M. O'Brien) and late migrants were 2 at Tanyard on May 4 (Ringler), in Allegany County on May 10 (Kiddy), 1 at Hart – Miller on May 10 (Blom, Dixon, Ringler) and 3 exceptionally late birds at Remington Farms on May 21 (Grubers). The last report of **Purple Sandpipers** was 20 at Ocean City on May 9 (Klockner). Migrating rather early were 3 **Dunlins** at Loch Raven on March 27 (Simon); peak counts were 383 at Blackwater on April 12 (Gough, M. O'Brien), 67 at New Road Landing in Wicomico County on May 4 (Ringler) and 700 at Hart – Miller on May 25 (Ringler +). Also of note were 3 **Dunlins** in DC on May 17 (Czaplak), 2 in Piscataway Creek on May 17, and 1 there on the 25th (Nistico). The only report of **Ruff** was a female at Hart – Miller on May 10 (Blom, Dixon, Ringler).

Dowitchers, Snipe, Woodcocks, and Phalaropes. **Short-billed Dowitchers** included 1 in southern Dorchester County on April 12 (Armisteads +), 2 at Cove Point on May 17 (Stasz, Ringler) and 40 at Hart – Miller on May 25 (Ringler +). A **Common Snipe** was at Lilypons on March 8 and 12 were there on the 29th (Ringler); other high counts were 14 at Church Hill on March 21 (Grubers), 70 at Jug Bay on March 23 (Ricciardi +), 40 at Blackwater on April 6 (O'Briens) and 6 at Pinto Marsh on April 13 (Simons). Late snipe were 1 at Deal Island WMA on May 10 (M. O'Brien +), 6 at Denton on May 12 (Robert Fletcher) and in Calvert County on May 16 (Stasz). An **American Woodcock** was heard displaying on Town Creek Road in Allegany County on March 2 (Ringler, Simons, Mark Weatherholt) and 3 were displaying at Sparks in Baltimore County on March 31 (Dixon). At Hart – Miller 2 **Wilson's Phalaropes** were present on May 10 and 1 on May 25 (Ringler +). **Red-necked Phalaropes** on the Ocean City pelagic trips numbered 5 on May 4, 23 on May 11 and 57 on May 15 while **Red Phalaropes** numbered 4 on April 25, 65 on April 26, 189 on May 11 and 125 on May 15. In addition there were 8 unidentified phalaropes on the April 25 trip (Wierenga +).

Jaegers, Dark-headed Gulls. On the May 11 pelagic trip from Ocean City 2 **Pomarine Jaegers** and 4 **Parasitic Jaegers** were seen while single Parasitics were found on the April 25, April 26 and May 4 trips (Wierenga +). The first sightings of **Laughing Gulls** this spring were 1 at Back River on March 25 (M. O'Brien), 1 near Bellevue on March 29 (Armisteads) and in Calvert County on the latter date (Stasz). The O'Briens counted 637 adult **Laughing Gulls** in fields near Salisbury on April 6. An adult **Little Gull** in non-breeding plumage was seen at Back River on April 5 (Wilkinson) and April 12 (P. O'Brien). At North Beach Stasz reported 1 **Little Gull** on April 6 and 5 over the bay on the 10th. Also at Back River 2 **Common Black-headed Gulls**, an immature and a molting adult, were seen on March 22 and 25 (M. O'Brien +). The immature was last seen on March 29 (Barry Cooper) and the adult coming into breeding plumage was seen through April 12 (P. O'Brien). **Bonaparte's Gulls** were again widely reported. As usual the concentration point was Back River though this year's maximum was a rather

low 400 on April 6 (Ringler). There were numerous inland reports and sightings along the bay. Of interest were 5 at Love Point on March 17 and 45 at Tolchester on April 2 (Gruber), 10 adults at Rocky Gap on March 29 (Ringler +), 2 there on April 22 (Simons, Kiddy), 1 at Seneca on April 2 (Warfield), 1 at Broadford Reservoir in Garrett County on April 2 (Skipper), 21 in DC on April 5 (Czaplak), 35 at North Branch on April 6 (Simons), 14 at Loch Raven on April 12 (Simon), 1 at Lake Elkhorn on April 12 (Orgain) and a high count there of 23 on the 18th (Mountjoy, Seay) but only 1 on the 19th (Mountjoy) 3 at Upper Marlboro on April 15 (Stasz), 15 at Beltsville on April 17 (Sumner), 8 at Deep Creek Lake on April 18 (Skipper) and 90 at Hart – Miller on April 20 (Ringler +). Late Bonaparte's Gulls were 6 at Ocean City on May 4 (Ringler), 1 immature at Sandy Point on May 19 (Davidson), 1 in DC on May 23 (Czaplak), 23 at Hart – Miller on May 25 (Ringler +), and in Calvert County 1 at Cove Point on May 26 and 1 at North Beach on May 30 (Stasz).

White-headed Gulls. Concentrations of **Ring-billed Gulls** were 120 at Rocky Gap on March 3 (Simons), 250 at the Frederick landfill at Reichs Ford on March 8 (Ringler), 440 in DC on April 22 (Czaplak) and a flock at Hart – Miller on May 25 estimated at 6000 (Ringler +). This latter flock represents non-breeding birds remaining south of the breeding range for the summer. Rare in western Maryland were 3 **Herring Gulls** at Rocky Gap on March 15 (Simons). At Hart – Miller, with 4000 Herring Gulls present, there were 4 nests ready for eggs and by May 25 there were 29 nests with eggs and 88 others ready (Ringler +). An immature **Thayer's Gull** was identified at Hart – Miller on May 10 (Blom, Dixon, Ringler). **Iceland Gull** sightings were of single immature birds at the Frederick landfill on March 1 (Wilkinson) and Fort McHenry on March 9 (Ringler +). The adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at Fort McHenry was last seen on March 16 (Ringler); at Hart – Miller single birds were seen on May 10 and 25 (Ringler +). An immature **Glaucous Gull** was seen at Upper Marlboro on March 11 (Stasz) and another immature was at Hart – Miller on May 25 (Ringler +). A pair of **Great Black-backed Gulls** was seen copulating on a nest at Hart – Miller on May 25 (Blom). On the April 26 pelagic trip 2 very late immature **Black-legged Kittiwakes** were seen (Wierenga +).

Terns. Skimmers. The only report of **Gull-billed Tern** was 1 at Assateague on May 31 (Gough). **Caspian Terns** are being seen more frequently inland in addition to the usual concentration points at Baltimore, Sandy Point and Washington. There were 17 at Fort McHenry and 1 at Masonville on April 5 (Ringler) to begin the parade. In Howard County there were 23 at Lake Elkhorn on April 11 and at least 1 through the 26th (Hill +), 1 at Triadelphia on April 18 (Chester) and 1 at Centennial Lake on April 20 (Solem, Farrell). Stasz saw 1 Caspian Tern at Upper Marlboro on April 15. There were 6 at Jug Bay on April 18 and 2 there on May 9 (Ricciardi, Beaton). The peak counts of Caspian Terns were 230 at Hart – Miller on April 20 (Ringler +), 104 at Sandy Point on April 24 (Klockner) and 66 at Worton Creek in Kent County on April 25 (Gruber). Only 3 were at Sandy Point on May 19 (Davidson). The peak in DC was 15 on April 24 (Czaplak) and a late migrant was flying north over Rockville on May 16 (M. O'Brien). **Royal Terns** made a noticeable showing northward in the bay this spring. Starting with 1 bird at Point Lookout on March 24 and increasing to 24 on April 3 (Wilson), they spread up the bay and the Patuxent River. There were 3 at North Beach on April 9 (Stasz), at least 3 on the Patuxent at Chalk Point on April 19 (Ringler, Stasz) and 6 at Hart – Miller on April 20 (Ringler +). On the eastern shore of the bay reports were of 4 at Elliott on April 12 (M. O'Brien, Gough) 4 at Hambrooks on

the Choptank on May 3 (Wilson) and 4 at Bivalve on the Nanticoke on May 4 (Ringler). On the coast, 1 Royal Tern was at Ocean City on March 28 (M. O'Brien, Gough) and 18 were there on April 6 (M. & P. O'Brien). Stasz reported the first **Common Terns** of the season in Calvert County on April 9 with ensuing reports of 8 at Ocean City on April 13 (Ringler), 1 at Rock Hall on April 16 (Gruber), 4 at Dover Bridge near Tanyard on April 16-18 (Engle) and 1 adult at Goose Island in DC on May 3 (Czaplak, M. O'Brien). **Common Terns** were found breeding at Hart - Miller on May 25 with 8 nests with eggs and 30 adult birds counted (Ringler +). Reports of **Arctic Terns** on pelagic trips were 1 on May 4 (Rick Blom, Maurice Barnhill) and 1 on May 15 (many observers). **Forster's Terns** made a good early showing beginning with 3 at Ocean City on March 15 and 14 there on March 28 (M. O'Brien +), birds in Calvert County on March 19 (Stasz), 1 at Back River on April 6 (Blom, Ringler) and at Piscataway on April 6 (Nistico). The Armisteads estimated 200 **Forster's** in southern Dorchester County on April 12, and other interesting reports were 3 at Jug Bay on April 18 (Ricciardi, Beaton) and single birds there on May 9 and May 22 (Mumford, Ricciardi), 1 at Seneca on April 29 (Warfield) and 2 at Rock Hall on May 28 (Gruber). Also at Hart - Miller on May 25 observers found 11 **Least Tern** nests with eggs (Ringler +). The only reports of **Black Terns** from land were 1 at Beltsville on May 15 (Sumner) and 1 at Hart - Miller on May 25 (Ringler +), but pelagic observers counted 17 on the May 4 trip from Ocean City (Wierenga +). There were 50 **Black Skimmers** at Ocean City on April 13 (Ringler).

Doves, Owls, Goatsuckers. Hilton found a fledgling **Mourning Dove** out of a DC nest on April 18. The **Common Barn-Owl** nest at Irish Grove contained 3 eggs on April 12 (Ringler). A **Great Horned Owl** nest at Patuxent NAS on March 17 contained 2 young (Rambo, Bryan). Wilkinson saw 1 **Short-eared Owl** along Route 404 about 3 miles east of US #50 on March 2. The first report of **Chuck-will's-widow** was 4 at Eastern Neck on April 27 (Gruber). Single Chucks were heard at Patuxent WRC on May 3 (Martin), and on May 16 at Laurel (Droege), Rockville (O'Briens, Pisano), and Accokeek (Nistico). Gruber also heard a **Whip-poor-will** at Eastern Neck on April 27 and 1 was at Federalsburg on April 26 (Glime); the earliest report of the year was in northern Baltimore County on March 31 (Dixon).

Swifts and Hummingbirds. Hilton heard 1 **Chimney Swift** in DC on the exceptionally early date of April 1 and Czaplak tallied 380 there on May 3. Other early swifts were 1 at Upper Marlboro on April 9 (Stasz), 1 at Fort Smallwood on April 12 (Klockner), 1 at Patuxent NAS on April 14 (Rambo) and 4 at North Branch on April 16 (Simons). Early **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** appeared in southern Maryland with 1 at Laurel Grove in St. Marys County on April 18 (Runkles) and 1 at Patterson Park in Calvert County on April 19 (Ringler, Stasz).

Flycatchers, Larks. Ben Yokel reported the only **Olive-sided Flycatchers** of the season with 1 at Sugarloaf on May 8 and 2 there the next day. The only **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** of the spring was banded at Adventure on May 28. **Least Flycatchers** arrived early in Garrett County with 3 at Hoyes Run on April 28 (Skipper) while others noted were 1 singing at Beltsville on May 17 (Sumner) and 1 banded at Adventure on May 31. In Montgomery County the first **Eastern Phoebe** was seen on March 10 (Warfield) but 4 were at Rockville on March 16 (M. O'Brien). At Turkey Neck near Deep Creek Lake a phoebe was building a nest over a porch light fixture on April 2 (Skipper). Hilton estimated 60 **Horned Larks** at Summit Hall Turf Farm on March 8.

Swallows. Early migrant **Purple Martins** were 2 at Chestertown on March 14 (Parks), in Calvert County on March 17 (Stasz), at Patuxent WRC on March 27 (Kathy Klimkiewicz) and 1 at Blackwater on March 29 (Armistead +). Early **Tree Swallows** were 1 in Denton on March 10 (Nuttle), in Charles County on March 15 (Nistico), 2 at Rocky Point in Baltimore County on March 16 (Ringler) and at Upper Marlboro on March 20 (Stasz). Numbers quickly built up as there were 100 at Seneca on March 21 (Warfield), 30 at North Branch on March 28 (Simons, Ringler) and 5 at Jug Bay on March 23 that increased to 1500 on April 9 (Ricciardi). A late migrant **Tree Swallow** was at Lake Elkhorn on June 3 (Hill). Nistico found early **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** in Prince Georges County on March 23 and Charles County on March 30 while 1 was at North Branch on March 28 (Simons, Ringler). Some extraordinarily early **Bank Swallows** were 3 at Chestertown on April 2 (Grubers), in Calvert County on April 12 (Stasz), 1 at Blackwater on April 12 (Armistead +) and 5 in DC on April 13 (Czaplak); the high count for the season was 300 at Jug Bay on May 9 and May 22 (Ricciardi +). A rarity for Calvert County was a **Cliff Swallow** on April 12 (Stasz) as were 1 in DC on April 26 and 2 there on May 3 (Czaplak). Simons noted the high for one location with 47 **Cliff Swallows** at Pinto Marsh on May 3. **Barn Swallows** were widely reported in the last week of March with 1 in DC on the 24th (Czaplak), 1 at Seneca (Warfield), 1 at Deal Island WMA on the 28th (M. O'Brien, Gough), 2 at North Branch on the 28th (Simons, Ringler) and in Charles County on the 30th (Nistico).

Corvids, Nuthatches, Wrens. The high count for migrating **Blue Jays** was 670 at Fort Smallwood on April 27 (Ringler). Armistead estimated 300 **Fish Crows** near Bellevue on April 19, and a pair were nest-building at Merrymount in Baltimore County on April 26 (Ringler). A **Northern Raven** was reported near Mt. Etna in Washington County on May 24 (Harold Fogleman). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were almost unreported, but 1 was in Allegany County on March 2 (Simons). Wilson saw a **Brown-headed Nuthatch** excavating a nest hole at Lake Conoy in Point Lookout State Park on April 3. A **House Wren** in Garrett County on March 31 (Thayer) was quite early there. Single **Sedge Wrens** were at Irish Grove on April 12-13 (Ringler +) and at Rockville on May 2 (M. O'Brien). The first **Marsh Wrens** of the season were 2 at Jug Bay on April 2 (Ricciardi, Beaton) and 1 at Rumbly Point on April 13 (Ringler +).

Kinglets, Gnatcatchers, Thrushes. Late **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were singles in Garrett County on May 11 (Skipper) and at Denton on May 17 (Short). The first **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** of the season were 1 near Ocean City on March 28 (M. O'Brien, Gough) and 5 at Point Lookout on March 29 (Davidson). A **Veery** at Jug Bay on May 22 (Mumford, Ricciardi) was a moderately late migrant. Reports of **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** included 1 singing at Beltsville on May 30 (Sumner) and 1 banded at Stevenson on June 3. Early **Swainson's Thrushes** were 1 banded at Adventure on April 29 and 1 seen at Stevenson on April 30 (Ross); Czaplak recorded the highest count with 54 in DC on May 17 and a late individual was banded at Stevenson on June 4. A **Hermit Thrush** at Rockville on May 8 (M. O'Brien) and 1 banded at Stevenson the same day were the last of the spring. Early **Wood Thrushes** were at Patuxent NAS on April 17 (Rambo), in Calvert County on April 19 (Stasz) and at Federalsburg on April 20 (Glime). Wilson made the only high count of **American Robins** with 300 on St. Jerome's Neck in St. Marys County on March 24.

Thrashers, Pipits, Waxwings, Shrikes. A **Gray Catbird** in Howard County on March 11 (Munro) was probably wintering locally. The first migrant **Brown Thrashers** were 1 at Locks Swamp Creek in St. Marys County on April 3 (Wilson) and 2 at Pinto Marsh on April 4 (Simons). High counts of **Water Pipits** were 200 at Randle Cliff in Calvert County on March 15 (Stasz) and 100 in the Bradenbaugh area of Harford County in the first two weeks of April (Kirkwood), and a late single bird was near Fulton on May 7 (M. Wallace). High counts of **Cedar Waxwings** were 70 near Bellevue on March 27 (Armistead), 250 at Bivalve on April 4 (Dyke), 30 at Mardela Springs and 80 at Ocean City on April 13 (Ringler), 1 at Lilypons on March 15 (Anderson) and 1 at Swan Creek in Kent County on March 18 (Gruber).

Vireos. Early **White-eyed Vireos** were in Calvert County on April 12 (Stasz) and 1 at North Branch on April 15 (Simons). An interesting assortment of **Solitary Vireo** reports included 1 in Garrett County on April 5 (Thayer), 1 on Green Ridge on April 5-6 (Simons), 1 in DC on April 12 (Czaplak), 1 banded at Adventure on April 15, 1 at Flag Ponds in Calvert County on April 19 (Stasz, Ringler), nest-building in Hoyes Run in Garrett County on April 28 (Skipper) and 1 in Calvert County on May 10; (Kraus). Early **Yellow-throated Vireos** were 1 at Flag Ponds on April 19 (Stasz, Ringler) and 1 at Pinto Marsh on April 26 (Simons). The first **Warbling Vireos** of the season were in Montgomery County on April 26 (Bonham) and 1 at North Branch on April 28 (Simons). Other **Warbling Vireos** of note were 1 at Lexington Park in St. Marys County on May 9 (Rambo), 1 in Calvert County on May 10-11 (Kraus) and 1 in Denton on May 13 (R. Fletcher) and May 29 (Nuttle). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was banded near Oakland on May 17 (Thayer).

Vermivora and Parula Warblers. The earliest **Blue-winged Warbler** was in DC on April 25 (Czaplak) and on April 28 others were seen at Pinto Marsh (Simons) and banded at Adventure. The high count for **Blue-wings** was 10 at Little Bennett Regional Park on May 10 (John Bjerke +) and on the same day George Jett found 2 at Myrtle Grove WMA. A **Blue-wing** singing at Laurel Grove in St. Marys County on May 27 (Runkles) is past the expected migration period for this species and may have been breeding. The first **Golden-winged Warbler** of the season was at Pinto Marsh on April 29 (Simons) and as usual very few were found in migration outside the breeding range, namely 2 in DC on May 3 (Czaplak) and 2 in Howard County, 1 at Waterford Farm on May 3 (M. Wallace) and 1 in Hammond Village on May 6 (Solem). A **Brewster's hybrid**, with yellow wing bars and singing a **Blue-wing** song, was seen in the Fairway Hills section of Montgomery County on April 30 (Claudia Serrin). A male **Brewster's** was at the Pickall Area of Patapsco Valley State Park on May 3 (Wilkinson) and another was at Pinto Marsh on May 18 (Simons). The only **Lawrence's hybrid** of the season was reported by Jim Crowell in Rockville on May 25. **Orange-crowned Warblers** made an above average appearance this year with 1 at Hickory Hills in Calvert County on April 27 (Kraus), a male at Rockville on April 27-28 and a female there on May 5 (M. O'Brien), 1 at Woodend on May 6-8 (Marie Plante) and 1 at Cylburn on May 12 (Yokel). The first **Nashville Warblers** were found on April 27, 1 in DC (Czaplak) and 1 at Pinto Marsh (Simons). An early **Northern Parula** was on Dividing Creek in Worcester County on April 12 (Ringler +).

Dendroica Warblers. The first **Yellow Warbler** of the spring was a male seen at Miller Island, Baltimore County on April 20 (Ringler +). An early **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was at North Branch on April 28 (Simons). The first of the **Magnolia Warblers** were 2 at Chestertown on April 27 (J. Gruber) and 1 at Pinto Marsh the

next day (Simons); a female was a late migrant at Ocean City on May 31 (Ringler). The earliest **Cape May Warbler** was in Calvert County on April 27 (Kraus). Also of interest were 2 Cape Mays at Pocomoke Swamp on May 10 (Wilson) and an unusually late high count of 15 at the Cumberland suburb of Bel Air on May 25 (Simons). Early and late **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were at Chestertown with 1 on April 27 (J. Gruber) and a singing male on May 23 (Klockner). Also early were 2 Black-throated Blues in Garrett County at Hoyes Run on April 28 (Skipper). A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** at Oldtown on March 2 (Simons, Ringler) was probably one of the few wintering in Allegany County, but the peak of this species' migration in southern Maryland was April 9 when an estimated 1500 were at Jug Bay (Ricciardi, Beaton). Early **Black-throated Green Warblers** included 2 in Garrett County at Bray Hill on April 26 (Skipper), 1 in DC on the same day (Czaplak) and 1 at North Branch on April 28 (Simons); 3 at Pocomoke Swamp on May 10 (Wilson) also were notable. Connie Skipper found the early **Blackburnian Warblers** of the season with 3 on Maple Glade Road in Garrett County on April 28; the latest reports were 1 at Denton on May 28 (Nuttie) and a female at Ocean City on May 31 (Ringler). Early **Yellow-throated Warblers** were 1 in southwestern Charles County on March 30 (Nistico) and 1 at Seneca on April 2 (Warfield). Wilson observed a **Pine Warbler** nest-building on Newton Neck in St. Marys County on April 3. A very early **Prairie Warbler** was heard in Pocomoke State Forest on April 13 (Ringler +) and another was moderately early near Bellevue on April 20 (Armistead). High counts of **Palm Warblers** were 7 at Locks Swamp Creek in St. Marys County on April 3 (Wilson), an impressive 30 at Jug Bay on April 9 (Ricciardi, Beaton) and 12 at Golts on April 15 (J. Gruber, Parks); late individuals were in Allegany County on May 10 (Kiddy) and a "western" banded at Stevenson on May 16. The latest **Bay-breasted Warblers** were 2 in Garrett County on May 23 (Skipper) and 1 on Myersville Road in Allegany County on June 1 (Simons). High counts for **Blackpoll Warblers** were 55 in DC on May 17 (Czaplak) and 100 at Jug Bay on May 22 (Mumford, Ricciardi); 2 females in Ocean City on May 31 (Ringler) were late. The first **Cerulean Warbler** reported was 1 at Pinto Marsh on April 27 (Simons) while 1 at Jug Bay on May 9 (Ricciardi, Beaton) was at an unusual location.

Other Warblers. The first **Black-and-white Warblers** of the season were 1 at Jug Bay on April 9 (Ricciardi, Beaton) and 4 in Worcester County on April 13 (Ringler +). Late migrant **American Redstarts** were 3 in Ocean City on May 31 (Ringler) and a female banded at Stevenson on June 3. An early **Prothonotary Warbler** was in Worcester County on April 12 (Ringler +) and 1 in western Howard County on May 3 (Harts) was rare there. A record early **Worm-eating Warbler** was at Golts on April 15 (J. Gruber, Parks) and another early one flew into a window at Denton on April 21 and survived the accident (R. Fletcher). Early **Ovenbirds** were 3 in Somerset/Worcester counties on April 12 (Ringler +), in Calvert County on April 18 (Stasz) and 1 at Jug Bay on the latter date (Ricciardi, Beaton). The first Worcester County **Northern Waterthrush** arrival was found in Hickory Point Swamp on May 3 (Ringler) and the high count for the season was 20 at Jug Bay on May 9 (Ricciardi, Beaton). **March Louisiana Waterthrushes** were 1 at Beltsville on the 29th (Sumner) and in Charles County on the 30th (Nistico). The first **Mourning Warbler** of the spring was a male seen near Columbia on May 9 (Chestem) and this was followed by 1 at Cylburn on May 11-12 (Yokel), 1 at Pinto Marsh on May 16 (Simons), single birds banded at Adventure on May 22, 25, 26, 27 and 29, a male in Rockville on May 24 (O'Briens), a male in DC on May 24 (Czaplak), 3 banded at Stevenson on May 27 and a female banded there on June 4, and 1 banded near Oakland on May 28. The

first **Common Yellowthroats** were reported on April 12 with 4 at Irish Grove (Ringler +) and 1 in southern Dorchester County (Armistead). The earliest **Hooded Warbler** was in Charles County on April 26 (Nistico). The latest **Wilson's Warblers** were single birds banded at Stevenson on May 28, seen at Lake Elkhorn on May 28 (Hill) and seen in DC on May 31 (Czaplak).

Tanagers, Grosbeaks and Buntings. Rare in Howard County were a **Summer Tanager** at Hammond Branch on May 5 (Solem, Munro) and a female **Summer Tanager** at Daniels on May 13 (Chestem). The first **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** of the season were 2 in DC on May 1 (Czaplak) and in Allegany County the same day (Kiddy). Nistico found the earliest **Blue Grosbeaks** this year with birds in Charles and Prince Georges counties on April 28, followed on the 29th at Laurel Grove in St. Marys County (Runkles). The earliest **Indigo Bunting** was in Howard County on April 26 (M. Wallace). The only report of **Dickcissel** was 1 at Sandy Point on May 19 (Davidson).

Sparrows. The last of the wintering **American Tree Sparrows** were 1 at the Mountain Lake sewage lagoons on March 16 (Skipper), 1 at Sparks in northern Baltimore County on March 19 (Dixon) and 5 at Rocky Gap on March 28 (Simons). **Chipping Sparrows** made an early appearance this year beginning with 1 at Bel Air near Cumberland on March 16 and 1 at Rocky Gap on March 18 (Simons), in Harford County on March 22 (Kirkwood), in Baltimore on March 24 (Ross), and 1 in Howard County at Laurel on March 25 (Solem). The largest flock of **Chipping Sparrows** reported was 42 on April 7 at Remington Farms where there were also 75 **Field Sparrows** (Grubers). The first **Vesper Sparrows** of the season were 2 at Eastern Neck on March 21 (Grubers), 1 at Leading Point in Baltimore on March 30 (Wilkinson) and 4 on St. Jerome's Neck in St. Marys County on April 3 (Wilson). The previously reported **Lark Sparrow** wintering at Denton was last seen on March 25 (Anderson) while at Loch Raven 1 was seen and heard singing from about March 3 through the 15th (Paul Noell, Kaestner). A **Savannah Sparrow** at Pinto Marsh on March 2 (Simons, Ringler) was probably wintering, but 4 at Remington Farms on March 23 (Grubers) were more likely spring migrants. A rather late high count of **Savannahs** was 18 at Rockville on May 9 (M. O'Brien) and the last migrant reported was in Howard County on the 12th (Solem). The first **Grasshopper Sparrows** of the year were in Allegany County (Simons) and DC (Czaplak) on April 20. The first report of **Seaside Sparrows** was 18 singing at Deal Island WMA on April 6 (O'Briens) followed by 4 at Irish Grove on April 12 (Ringler +) and at Chesapeake Beach on April 18 (Stasz). Migrant **Seaside Sparrows** were 1 at Fort Smallwood on April 27 and 1 at Hart - Miller on May 10 (Ringler +). An extremely late **Fox Sparrow** was in Charles County on April 17 (Nistico). Sallie Thayer saw a **Lincoln's Sparrow** at her feeder near Oakland on May 1 and banded 1 the next day. Other reports of **Lincoln's** were 2 at Cylburn on May 13 (Yokel), 2 at Pinto Marsh on May 16 (Simons), 1 in DC on May 17 (Czaplak) and 1 banded at Stevenson on June 3. A late **Swamp Sparrow** repeated in the nets at Adventure on May 19. The last **White-throated Sparrows** were banded at Cylburn on May 23 and seen in Harford County on May 25 (Kirkwood). The last **White-crowned Sparrows** were 2 at Pinto Marsh on May 13 (Simons) and at Downsville in Washington County on May 17 (Mallonee). An extremely late **Dark-eyed Junco** was in Denton on May 15 (Knotts).

Icterines. The only April report of **Bobolink** was in Calvert County on the 29th (Stasz). **Bobolinks** visited the Bradenbaugh area of Harford County, May 2-25, with a peak of about 200 birds (Kirkwood). There were 50 **Bobolinks** at Pinto

Marsh on May 16 (Simons) and a late flock of 20 at Beltsville on May 24 (Ringler). A male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was seen in Essex, Baltimore County on March 31 and April 1 (Christopher Douglass, Ada Evans). The few reports of **Rusty Blackbirds** included 4 at Back River on March 16 (Ringler), 5 at Pinto Marsh on March 30 (Simons) and 5 at North Branch on April 17 (Simons). An **Orchard Oriole** at Pinto Marsh on April 21 (Simons) was a bit early and an adult male at Hoyes Run in Garrett County on April 28 (Skipper) was an exceptional find there. The first **Northern Orioles** of the season were single birds in DC on April 25 (Czaplak), Denton on April 26 (R. Fletcher) and Pinto Marsh on April 27 (Simons).

Finches. The only notable number of **Purple Finches** reported was 65 at Rockville on April 9 (M. O'Brien). Scattered reports of **Pine Siskins** continued into mid-May including these: 17 at Swanton in Garrett County on May 2 (Skipper), in Baltimore on May 8 (Ross), at Cove Point on May 11 (Stasz), 4 at Bel Air near Cumberland on May 13 (Simons), 1 at Rockville on May 16 (M. O'Brien), 2 at Bryans Road in Charles County on May 17 (Nistico) and 1 at Denton on May 26 (Nuttle). Teresa Simons had 50 **Evening Grosbeaks** at her feeder near Cumberland on March 29 and 5 remained on May 16. Other late reports were 1 at Denton on May 10 (Pepper), 1 at Summit Hall Turf Farm in Montgomery County on May 11 (Hilton), 3 at Cove Point on May 11 (Stasz) and 6 at Bray Hill in Garrett County on May 20 (Skipper).

3501 Melody Lane, Baltimore, MD 21207

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE IN CECIL COUNTY

GLENN D. THERRES

On the morning of February 16, 1986 a Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) was observed among approximately 1,000 Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) at a farm pond in Cecil County. This was the first reported sighting of a White-fronted Goose in Cecil County. Since White-fronted Geese have occurred annually in the surrounding counties, a sighting in Cecil County was anticipated (R. Ringler, *pers. comm.*).

A crew of Maryland Forest, Park & Wildlife Service employees were at a farm on Route 282 (Cecilton-Warwick Road) to trap and band Canada Geese on the morning of February 16. The farm was approximately 2 km. west of Warwick. While waiting for the geese to approach the bait, a White-fronted Goose was observed in a field no more than 50 meters from our crew. The crew was concealed in a shed and out of sight of the birds. We observed the White-fronted Goose for at least 30 minutes. A pair of 7x35 binoculars aided in the identification and observation. The bird's orange feet and bill (indicating the Greenland race) were very distinctive. Unfortunately, it did not join the Canada Geese on the baitline and thus was not trapped and banded.

Crew members who observed the goose were Barbara Ford, Mark Hooper, Dale Loughry, Keith Mastin, Ron Norris, Tim Sherman and Glenn Therres. Darrell Byerly, the landowner's son, also observed the goose.

Maryland Forest, Park & Wildlife Service, 2 South Bond Street, Bel Air, Md. 21014

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC. June 7, 1986

The annual membership meeting of the Maryland Ornithological Society was held on June 7, 1986 at Frostburg State College. A quorum was on hand when President Anthony White called the meeting to order at 8:15 p.m.

Treasurer – Emily Joyce. Total financial assets of the Society are \$143,552; in addition, the Atlas program shows a balance of \$2378. Auditing Committee chairman Rodney Jones reported that the books had been examined and found to be in good order. He commended Mrs. Joyce for initiating the new computerized bookkeeping system. A motion by Mrs. Meinersmann was seconded and passed, accepting the Treasurer's report, which will be published in the September 1986 issue of *Maryland Birdlife*.

Committee chairmen presented their reports, which also will be published in *Maryland Birdlife*. They are briefly synopsisized here:

Atlas – John Cullom and Eirik Blom. The project's financial position is solvent; however, in 1988 substantial funds will be needed for publication of results. After three years of field work, some 60,000 records have been entered. Hopefully the last two years will increase that figure to the 96,000 goal. Coverage is still needed in many blocks, as well as a new editor for the newsletter.

Bylaws – Lee Meinersmann. No Bylaws revisions were made this year, although some minor changes in the Manual of Operations were approved. A corrected edition of the Bylaws will be distributed to each chapter this summer.

Cavity Nesters – Chuck Dupree. The MOS Trails program is getting underway with new trails set up and more chapters expressing an interest in involvement.

Conservation – Anthony White reporting. MOS members testified before the Maryland State Legislature in support of the Chesapeake Bay Critical Areas bill, which passed, and the bill to prohibit the sale of captured birds, which did not. Letters were written at the state level urging preservation at the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and Little Bennett Regional Park.

Convention – Nowell Jones. Appreciation was expressed to the professional staff of Frostburg State College, members of the Allegany Chapter, and all volunteers who helped make this gathering a success. Our next convention will be held at Washington College in Chestertown, August 14-16, 1987.

Education – James Cheevers. The new Speakers List includes 34 volunteer speakers, offering 124 programs. Bob Ringler will again lead the annual Lister's Trip in October, hoping to better last year's total of 143 species. The Junior Achievement in Ornithology award was presented to Colin McAllister of the Wicomico Chapter. The committee seeks other worthy recipients for this honor.

Investments – Charles Buchanan. Total assets of the Society have been invested to the best advantage. The \$20,400 bequest received from the Buterbaugh estate has been placed temporarily in Money Market funds. It was Mr.

Buchanan's recommendation that our investment policy give consideration to increasing the percentage of common stock exposure in the portfolio.

Long Range Planning – Joanne Solem. In order to test the effectiveness of the Christmas Bird Count, in February the Howard Chapter conducted an experimental countywide count, resulting in some interesting comparisons. The committee recommended that one chapter in each section of the State make a similar effort, so it might be determined if there is a need for a statewide midwinter count.

Eagle – John Gregoire. This year showed a marked increase in the Bald Eagle population, with a good number of young birds banded.

Publications – Chandler Robbins and Mark Hoffman. Mr. Robbins thanked Jon Boone for his editorial assistance, Bob Ringler for preparing the Season reports, and Tony White for helping with administrative problems. Mr. Hoffman encouraged members to furnish articles for the *Yellowthroat*. He thanks Joy Aso for compiling the Calendar, and those who contributed copy.

Records – Robert Ringler. The committee has voted on a number of records, including recent sightings as well as others reported in the literature the past few years. Secretary Erica Wilson will publish results in the *Yellowthroat*.

Research – Margaret Jones. This year four good candidates were awarded grants, covering only a portion of their expenses. In order to further their goal of making MOS a real force in ornithological education, research and conservation, the committee will disseminate greater publicity about our grants to potential researchers at all levels.

Sanctuary – Dorothy Mumford. Much needed work was done at the sanctuary houses on successful workdays, and a new parking area was completed at Carey Run. The committee is presently evaluating our insurance coverage, with an eye to consolidating it under one policy.

Scholarship – Mildred Gebhard. Scholarship winners were announced, along with the camps of their choice. This year the Jimmy Wood Scholarship in ornithology was offered for the first time, the gift of Captain and Mrs. Wood in memory of their son.

Nominating – Jane Farrell. Nominated to serve as officers of the Society for the forthcoming year: President - Anthony White; Vice President, Richard J. Dolesh; Treasurer - Emily Joyce; Secretary - Patricia J. Moore. There were no nominations from the floor. Following a motion by Mr. Mason, duly seconded and passed, nominations were closed and the slate declared unanimously elected. Another motion by Mr. Mason was seconded and approved, expressing appreciation to the outgoing Secretary. Joy Aso was introduced as the new Executive Secretary.

At 9:15 p.m., Mrs. Meinersmann's motion for adjournment was received, seconded and passed.

Respectfully submitted,

HELEN FORD
Secretary

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER
MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.
May 1, 1985 through April 30, 1986**

Budget Item	Budget Amount	To Date
OPERATING FUND		
From 1984/1985		\$26,720.12
Income:		
Dues	\$ 12,000.00	\$10,658.00
From Sanctuary Endow. Fund	396.00	396.00
Convention Income—1985	1,200.00	4,285.95
Convention Income—1986		8,840.00
Interest Income—pooled funds	1,425.00	1,475.58
Interest—Investments	1,423.00	1,425.00
Publications	75.00	49.35
Shared Mail Permit	20.00	25.00
General Contributions		1,508.75
Total Income	16,539.00	19,823.63
Income + Balance		46,543.75
Expenses:		
Publication Committee		
<i>Md. Birdlife</i>		
Printing	5,200.00	1,260.75
Postage	620.00	
<i>Yellowthroat</i>		
Printing	1,740.00	1,509.22
Postage	580.00	785.84
Site Guides	360.00	
Supplies & Misc.	350.00	354.59
Total Publications	8,850.00	3,910.40
Admin. & Office Expenses		
Exec. Secretary Stipend	2,400.00	1,200.00
Postage	450.00	239.31
Bulk Mailing Permits	80.00	25.00
Bulk Mailing	150.00	
Membership List Maint.	400.00	1,875.33
Printing & Duplication	350.00	29.00
Tax Report Preparation	500.00	
Office Supplies, Misc.	600.00	574.00
Total Office Expense	4,930.00	3,942.64
Atlas Committee	1,000.00	1,000.00
Convention Committee—1986	1,200.00	802.92
Convention Committee—1987		200.00
Eagle Committee	565.00	

Education Committee	100.00	
Library Committee	50.00	
Records Committee	100.00	97.10
Research Committee	2,281.00	2,193.45
Affiliations & Memberships	175.00	110.00
Contingencies	200.00	25.00
Total Committees, etc.	5,671.00	4,428.47
Total Operating Expenses	19,451.00	12,281.51
Current Value, Operating Fund		34,262.24

SANCTUARY FUND

Balance, April 30, 1985		\$30,030.51
Income:		
Contributions	\$3,500.00	\$1,206.63
From Sanct. Endow. Fund	2,564.00	2,164.45
Interest—Pooled Funds	3,114.00	2,677.52
Sale, Sanctuary Signs	50.00	192.75
Use of Sanctuaries	1,300.00	930.00
Sale, Sanctuary Guides		17.13
Total Income, Sanctuary	10,528.00	7,188.48
Total Income + Balance		37,218.99
Expenses:		
Carey Run:		
General Maintenance	3,100.00	1,500.00
Utilities (electricity)	250.00	
Fire Insurance	125.00	
Incidentals	100.00	
Total Carey Run	3,575.00	1,500.00
Irish Grove:		
General Maintenance	3,050.00	1,238.75
Utilities (Elec. & Phone)	400.00	450.31
Fuel (Kerosene & Propane)	500.00	
Taxes	1,100.00	1,048.99
Fire Insurance	277.00	346.00
Contrib. Marion FD	50.00	
Incidentals	100.00	
Total Irish Grove	5,477.00	3,084.05
tum Suden:		
General Maintenance	250.00	454.53
Fire Insurance	226.00	492.00
Incidentals	100.00	
Total tum Suden	576.00	946.53
Mill Creek	250.00	61.60
General Liability	800.00	3,358.62
General contingency	500.00	791.49
Total Sanctuary Expenses		9,742.29
Current Sanctuary Fund		27,476.70

SANCTUARY ENDOWMENT FUND

Balance, April 30, 1985		\$32,209.46
Income:		
Life Memberships	\$200.00	\$300.00
Interest—Investments	2,200.00	1,969.96
Interest—Pooled Funds	760.00	590.49
Bequest		20,422.63
Total Income	3,160.00	23,283.08
Expenses:		
Transfer: Op. Fund (Life Members)	396.00	396.00
Transfer: Sanctuary Fund	2,564.00	2,164.45
Total Expenses	2,960.00	2,560.45
Current Endowment Fund		52,932.09

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Fund Balance, April 30, 1985		\$27,224.03
Income:		
Contributions—General	\$3,000.00	\$1639.89
Contribution—World Nature	625.00	650.00
Amatuer Gardeners' Club	385.00	400.00
Interest—Investments	585.00	585.00
Interest—Pooled Funds	1,900.00	1,802.91
Total Income		5,077.80
Balance + Income		32,301.83
Expenses:		
2 Helen Miller Scholar.	1,250.00	1,300.00
C. Robbins Scholarship	385.00	400.00
E. Robbins Scholarship	385.00	400.00
Orville Crowder Scholar.	625.00	650.00
Amateur Gardeners' Scholar.	385.00	395.00
Jimmy Wood Scholar.		275.00
Total Expenses	3,030.00	3,420.00
Current Fund Value		28,881.83

***Interest and Dividends:**

Bank Accounts	\$ 1,139.50 (pooled)
T. Rowe Price Reserve Fund	5,395.20 (pooled)
Source Capital Fund	239.25 (Endow.)
SW Bell	1,425.00 (oper.)
Dayton Power & Electric	240.00 (scholar.)
Ohio Bell	393.75 (endow.)
General Telephone	387.50 (endow.)
Niagara Mohawk Power	368.76 (endow.)
Virginia Electric Power	345.00 (scholar.)
T. Rowe Price Growth	582.70 (endow.)
Potomac Electric	11.80 (pooled)

Total Income—Interest and Investments	10,528.46
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ATLAS PROGRAM

	Budget Amount	To Date	
Balance, April 30, 1985			\$1,472.27
Income:			
Contributions	\$3050.00	\$1,231.88	
Transfer, Operating Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Convention—Raffle and Auction	1,200.00	1,034.50	
Total Income	5,250.00		3,266.38
Expenses:			
Travel	1,200.00		
Telephone	1,200.00		
Maps	100.00	250.00	
Block Busting	500.00	250.00	
Newsletter	2,000.00	507.57	
Miscellaneous	250.00	1,352.29	
Total Expenses			2,359.86
Balance forward			2,378.79
Current Assets:			
Suburban Bank (checking)	\$12,182.70		
Loyola (Cash Caddy)	285.77		
Loyola (Money Market)	6,838.52		
Uncashed checks			
Source Capital Fund	11,050.97		
T. Rowe Price (PRF)	91,591.84		
Bonds (purchase value)			
Dayton Power & Light	3,012.67		
General Tel. Co. SW	5,129.92		
Ohio Bell	4,987.81		
Niagara Mohawk	4,983.15		
¹ Potomac Electric	692.50		
Virginia Electric	3,992.04		
² McDermott, Inc.	9,901.07		
³ Reserve Group	1,319.93		
Total Current Asset Value	\$155,968.89		

¹Donated—Challenge Gift²Substituted for SW Bell
(SW Bell bond recalled)³Remainder of SW Bell

Submitted: June 7, 1986

*Emily D. Joyce, Treasurer***AUDITING COMMITTEE**

I have examined the financial records of the Treasurer of The Maryland Ornithological Society for the period May 1, 1985 thru April 30, 1986 including the financial statements prepared by the Treasurer. In my opinion the records and statements accurately reflect the financial condition of The Society.

Rodney B. Jones, Chairman

PRESIDENT'S REPORT, 1985-1986

For the M.O.S., 1985-86 was a year of progress in some areas and slippage in others. The challenge for the future will be to catch up in the areas that have slipped while continuing our progress in areas where we have done well. At the risk of stealing the thunder from the committee reports, I would like to summarize the good and the bad of 1985-86.

Two of our less publicized programs were especially effective this year. The scholarship program awarded three ecology and four ornithology scholarships worth a total of \$3450. The recipients of these awards are teachers and naturalists who will use their new knowledge in teaching Maryland's young people. Our research program awarded four grants totalling \$1900 for the study of Maryland birds. These grants will be used for such varied purposes as computerizing banding records and studying the local race of the Swamp Sparrow.

The Maryland Records Committee was also especially active, establishing criteria for records to be reviewed and completing their review of the first group of records. The results of their review have been published in *The Yellowthroat*.

The 1986 Convention at Frostburg was a big success with over 275 people attending. The raffle and auction raised approximately \$1,800 for the Atlas project. Next year's convention will be in Chestertown, August 15-17. This will be our first time at this location and at an August date, but the convention will be perfectly set to take advantage of the shorebird migration along the Eastern Shore.

The Breeding Bird Atlas Program will have one more year of field work in which to put the final touches on an already outstanding data base. Preliminary planning for the publication of the Atlas is underway. Breeding Bird Atlas data have already been used to support some conservation projects. This program will be the most significant project the M.O.S. has ever undertaken as its impact grows on decisions involving development and conservation in Maryland.

The M.O.S. supported a variety of conservation issues. Our representatives testified on behalf of the Chesapeake Bay Critical Areas Bill and a bill to prohibit the sale of wild birds. We also strongly supported the preparation of a long-range development plan for Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, and a moratorium on development in the refuge until such a plan is written and approved.

There is one area of concern to many members - the publication of *Maryland Birdlife*. The editors and principal contributors have initiated an ambitious program to bring the magazine up to date. They hope to achieve this without combining any issues or reducing the quality of the magazine. Hopefully when you read this, the magazine will once again be a current timely and authoritative documentation of Maryland's birdlife.

There is a tendency to think of the officers, the board and the committees as entities separate from the M.O.S. membership. These people are most effective when they reflect the will and desires of the membership. Let us hear from you, so that we may continue to act in your interests.

Tony White, 5872 Marbury Rd., Bethesda, Md. 20817

ANNUAL REPORTS OF LOCAL CHAPTERS

ALLEGANY CHAPTER

Our first meeting of the year was held as a picnic and business meeting at Carey Run Sanctuary in September, 1985. Of note at the sanctuary was the fact that a beaver has moved into the pond and extended its capacity by damming the spillway. In September, we participated in the National Hunting and Fishing Day at the Country Club Mall in Cumberland. We feel that is a good opportunity for good public relations work. We displayed some bird specimens, encouraged joining of the Bird Club and auctioned an afghan made by a member of our club (Dorothea Malec).

Our annual dinner was held in November with David Holmes as our speaker. We also held a silent auction to raise some funds for our club.

In October, as well as in April, we co-sponsored two wildlife screen tours, "Wild Canada" and "Autumn Journey to Alaska." In December we had our Christmas Bird Count with 71 species and good participation. Following the recent kills of black bear in Allegany County, we requested our District Wildlife Manager, Al Bourgeois, to present a program on the status of the black bear in Western Maryland. During the March meeting, William Cihlar, Assistant Superintendent of Rocky Gap State Park, gave a slide presentation on waterfowl indigenous to our area during migration. What made this program so unique was that Mr. Cihlar played waterfowl calls that he had recorded.

The annual clean up day was held at Carey Run Sanctuary on April 26. Our local group provided the food and 18 of our members participated. In addition, members from other chapters throughout the state participated. In May, our club recorded 139 species on the annual May Count. In June, a few of our Club's members participated in the Atlasing Project by doing some blockbusting.

The highlight of our birding year was the MOS Convention that was held at Frostburg State College and was hosted by our Club. This was the second year the Allegany County Chapter hosted the MOS Convention. Although the convention was held a week later and with fewer participants than the previous convention held at Frostburg, it was still a most exciting convention.

Mark Weatherholt, President

ANNE ARUNDEL CHAPTER

A very able and seasoned team planned the program for 1985-86. A somewhat reluctant, interim president with some experience guided by two very capable and hard working vice presidents, Helen Ford and Dotty Mumford, led Arundel birders through a series of seven fine lectures and over the highways to 219 species of birds. When this triumvir was all out of town on the first Friday in May it was not fair that the membership held a meeting in a parking lot and threatened to suspend the leadership from a limb next to the nearest Baltimore Oriole nest.

Despite the lock-out of the final meeting, which after an intensive investigation by a special prosecutor was ruled no fault of the Chapter, a total of 390 bodies and minds were counted in attendance at the seven lecture meetings. Speakers traveled from as far as Great Britain (Mike Madders on "Birds of the English Lake District) to educate us and did us proud on the neotropics (Chan Robbins), Hawaii (Erika Wilson), Whooping Cranes (Luther Goldman), bird feeding (Dr. Aelred Geis), Kenya (Bob Ringler), and the Patuxent wetlands (Rich Dolesh). Speakers were well fed before each meeting and attendees were fattened and quenched by a staff of excellent hostesses and hosts who prepared and served a selection of delicious cakes, cookies, and beverages after each lecture.

Eighty-two different people filled the ranks of 179 occupied spaces on seventeen field trips and registered 219 different species of avifauna. The Annapolis Neck trip with 29 birders was the most popular and the most rewarded by a kept promise of an adult Red-headed Woodpecker and by a great chili repast prepared by Helen Ford. A May weekend on the Eastern Shore led by Emily Joyce garnered the species record, totaling 126. Ten volunteer members provided the leadership on these adventures. Because of program listings in *Maryland Yellowthroat* a good number of MOS members from other chapters joined our field trips.

All of the events were published in a program directory dedicated to the late Commander Edward P. Wilson, our first chapter president and first honorary chapter life member. The booklet was beautifully and appropriately covered by our own John "Bud" Taylor's art, "Northern Oriole," the design for the first Maryland Wildlife Conservation Stamp.

Ten diligent members assisted by a few from outside the chapter spent the long hot summer walking the 59 blocks into which the county is divided for the Maryland/DC Breeding Bird Atlas Project. They raised the total of possible, probable, and confirmed county breeders to 140 species at the end of the third of five Atlas seasons. The Christmas Bird Count was once again very well managed by Hal Wierenga and Wayne Klockner with the tally graciously hosted by Dick and Pat Chiles.

Dotty Mumford, Sue Ricciardi, and Chris Beaton volunteered numerous hours to census the birds of the county-owned Jug Bay Wetland Sanctuary. Helen and John Ford began a similar survey at Beverly—Triton Beach Park. As the chapter year ended, the chapter undertook bird studies for the county Office of Planning and Zoning on forested land being considered for development. Related to the Chesapeake Bay Critical Areas legislation this effort is aimed at preserving some of the deep woods species that still nest in the county.

Chapter and honorary Arundel life members Captain and Mrs. J.E.M. Wood endowed the MOS with a new scholarship in memory of their son, Jimmy Wood. The Richard E. Heise, Jr. Annual Wildlife Program netted \$300 for dividing equally in contributions to the MOS Sanctuary and Scholarship Funds. The members of the Anne Arundel Chapter created and took advantage of a very successful chapter year.

James W. Cheevers, President

BALTIMORE CHAPTER

The Baltimore Chapter continued its wide variety of activities for its over 600 members this year. The backbone of each year's calendar is an excellent selection of field trips to all parts of the state. There were 57 trips on the 1985-86 calendar going to 13 Maryland counties and 4 nearby states. Our program for younger people features regular school field trips to Cylburn Park hosted by MOS members, 6 special nature walks and science talks also at Cylburn, and the 26th annual Junior Nature Camp which is now held at Camp Hashawha in Carroll County. Monthly meetings of the chapter featured nine lectures about birds and birding by local individuals. Our annual meeting was held at a familiar birding site in the county—the Back River sewage plant, in the auditorium of the administration building rather than on the plant grounds. On this occasion we were entertained by native son Peter Kaestner speaking on the Birds of New Guinea.

The most important single event of the year in Baltimore was the renovation of the MOS Bird Museum at Cylburn. This was undertaken to transform the museum from a dingy upstairs room at the mansion into a display worthy of an organization as important as the MOS. This project was not undertaken lightly and it was not accomplished overnight. Principally through the efforts of Patsy Perlman, Joy and Bix Wheeler, and local artist Barbara Frye, and with the generous contributions of chapter members together with a significant gift from the USF&G Company, it was completed over the course of the year. The mounted specimens were spruced up and arranged into several attractive displays. The Bald Eagle and Baltimore Oriole were featured prominently. The newest addition to the collection was a Peregrine Falcon, actually one of the birds that had been raised in downtown Baltimore at the USF&G Building. It was mounted on materials taken from that building and is now the centerpiece of the museum room.

I invite all MOS members and friends to visit the MOS Bird Museum at Cylburn whenever they are in Baltimore and have the opportunity. It is the finest collection of mounted specimens in the area, representing over 100 species of birds that occur in Maryland presented in a display that neither detracts from the beauty of the birds nor crowds the mounts into obscure positions. Each bird is prominently labeled with English and Latin names.

Sale of the MOS Bookstore to Irvine Natural Science Center was completed. The Baltimore Chapter operated the bookstore for many years with proceeds going to the Sanctuary Fund; however the bookstore eventually outgrew the means of one person to handle within the confines of a home. Irvine will continue to bring a full complement of books to the MOS annual convention and a lesser selection to Baltimore Chapter meetings. MOS members can continue to order books through Irvine and visit the bookstore at the science center in Stevenson daily. Irvine will continue to offer a discount to MOS members.

Robert F. Ringler, President

CAROLINE COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Caroline Chapter of M.O.S. in 1985-86 showed a steady increase in membership and activity. We had many good programs in our meetings, including birding in Maine, Ecuador and several other places, a program on falconry and one on wildflowers. The men of the club spent some winter Sundays making bluebird houses, some of which were installed all over the county, the others sold as a fund raiser.

We provided bird feed for the local nursing home's feeder, which was enjoyed by many of the residents. Some of our funds were spent providing field guides to the local schools and our county library. It was reported that the guides were very popular.

Big excitement occurred at Denton's sewage lagoon in December, when a Lark Sparrow moved in to spend the winter. Listers came from many areas to see it.

Steve Westre, President

FREDERICK COUNTY CHAPTER

Eight regular monthly meetings were held in addition to the annual Christmas dinner. Attendance ranged from 28 to 63 with an average of 36. Speakers and subjects were as follows: William Oberman, "Birds and Bears of Churchill, Manitoba"; Ron Naveen, "Watery Ocean World: Seabirds, Whales, and Turtles"; Fred Beall, "Zoo Birds"; Donald Cooper, "Photographing Birds"; Members Night; Tony White, "Birds of Scotland"; Jim Cheevers, "Birds of Maryland"; John Hench and Keith Van Ness, "Little Bennett Regional Park, a Birder's Introduction"; and a movie, "Bluebirds—Bring Them Back."

Ten field trips were scheduled, one of which was cancelled because of inclement weather. Attendance was better than in previous years, averaging 10-12 people with a high of 25 people for the trip to Little Bennett Regional Park. Other trips were to Lilypons (twice), Gambrill and Washington Monument State Parks, Antietam Battlefield, Piney Run Park, and Sugarloaf Mountain. A new trip for the club was a winter night trip for owls to aid the Breeding Bird Atlas. The two parties were able to find only one owl (Barred), but it was a new record for that block.

The Catoctin Mountain Christmas Count was held on Saturday, December 21, and was ably directed again by Bill Shirey. Because of several conflicting counts on the same day, the number of counters was down as was the total number of species. The post-count dinner was hosted by Phyllis and Howard Hodge.

At the April Meeting, the following officers were elected for the 1986-87 year: President, Melvin Bennett; Vice President, Stauffer Miller; Treasurer, John Thrasher; Secretary, Marilyn Yost; State Trustee, Michael Welch.

Michael J. Welch, President

HARFORD COUNTY CHAPTER

The Harford County Chapter (145 members) continued to meet at the Churchville Presbyterian Church on the first Friday of November, January, March, and May.

The year began with our annual picnic, held at the 245-acre Harford Glen. The September event brought out one of our largest turnouts with 52 members present. Our local birdbander, Barbara Bilsborough, caught numerous birds in her nets, and allowed us some close-up views. Lisa Nowakowski showed us her butterfly and moth collection. Emerson Jackson brought his rehabilitated screech-owl for us to ogle. The old stone mansion was open to the group to observe our stuffed bird collection. It was a delightful day.

The club had an extensive field trip itinerary: Lancaster County, Susquehanna State Park (twice), Bombay Hook Wildlife Refuge (twice), Harford Glen (3 times), Palmer State Park, Madonna, Tinicum Wildlife Refuge, Ocean City (2 days), Aberdeen Proving Ground, Rocks State Park, and Brigantine Wildlife Refuge.

To increase spring warbler birding, the club initiated its first Harford County Warbler Competition. Ten different leaders were assigned days and sites during late April and May. The leader winning the competition will receive free MOS membership for the 1986-1987 fiscal year. The rules are too complex to go into here. The leaders included Les Eastman, Gail Mundis, Dennis Kirkwood, John Wortman, Todd Holden, Randy Robertson, Bill Pfingsten, Tom Congersky, Brian Blazie, and June Vaughn. The first year's competition produced 117 species including 24 warblers. Our winners were John and Gail. Congratulations for a job well done.

The Club presented four distinguished speakers at our dinner meetings. Bob Ringer, our November speaker, presented a slide show on the birds of Kenya. Bob spent 4 weeks in Africa photographing bird life. His slides were superb. Bob Schutsky was our January speaker. He presented a slide show entitled "The Lower Susquehanna." It was very relevant since it concentrated on the bird life of our own Conowingo Dam. The March meeting featured renowned wildlife artist, John Taylor. John was the artist of the first Maryland Wildlife Stamp. His program was well received by our members. Finally the May meeting featured our own Dave Smith. Dave presented a travelogue of Easter Island. Luckily, no travel agent was present, or half of us would have signed up.

The Club also participated in the Christmas Count, the Spring Count, and the Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas. According to our coordinator, Wm. Russell, 154 species have been currently reported in Harford County after the third year, and a remarkable 101 species have been confirmed as nesters.

Birds of some note that visited Harford County this year included: Lapland Longspurs, Water Pipits, Vester Sparrows, Iceland Gulls, Lesser Black-backed Gulls, a White-fronted Goose, a Common Barn-Owl, and a Golden Eagle. Bald Eagles are very abundant at the dam with some experts saying it may be one of the largest winter congregations in the lower states.

As you can see, the Harford Chapter had a most fruitful year. I thank our chapter officers (William McIntosh—Vice-President; Barbara Bilsborough—Recording Secretary; Pat Kastama—Treasurer; Joyce Sherman and Sarah Standiford—Corresponding Secretaries; William Russell, Pat Fetchero, Barclay Tucker, Emerson Jackson—Trustees) for their dedication and the effectiveness with which they fulfilled their responsibilities.

Kermit L. Updegrave, President

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER

Our year continued to be an active one, with membership around 300, and regular attendance at our meetings of 50-60 adults. We were able to meet most of our members' needs.

Our monthly programs included a talk on nature and art by John Taylor, painter of the first Maryland Conservation Stamp, Dr. George Gee on the role of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in the aid of vanishing species, John Barber on Peregrine Falcons and Janice Chase on Eagles of the North Chesapeake and radio tracking techniques.

We were also active in the local community with displays at the Howard County Fair, Ellicott City Country Fair, the Columbia Town Fair, the Patuxent River Connection Conference and a "Spring into Nature" program at the Howard County Public Library. We co-sponsored programs and field trips with the Howard County Department of Parks and Recreation and the multi-county efforts on Patuxent River Days, which coincides with the May Count.

This year the Howard County Chapter began the first ever true winter count. Where the Christmas count may contain some late migrants, our count was done in the later stages of the winter and covered the same areas as the May Count. Our thanks to the many volunteers from other chapters who helped in this effort. Our tally was 81 species, one hybrid and 28,966 individuals, seen by 34 "field" counters and 27 feeder watchers. We hope to turn this into an annual event.

Our specimen collection and slide programs continue to be a big draw and of interest to other groups and schools. Last year our members gave over 40 presentations to over 1000 children and adults.

Despite problems on the state level, local recycling efforts have been expanded and are gaining some momentum. Our efforts to gain visibility for a local recycling center have paid off, financially as well!! Some of the recycled material money is credited to our chapter, and quarterly we receive a small check that is supplemented and sent on to local, state and national conservation efforts.

Finally, at the invitation of the Howard County Council, the Howard County Chapter accepted, on behalf of all the citizens in the county, a resolution recognizing Patuxent River Days and its importance in the conservation effort.

John Clegg, President

JUG BAY CHAPTER

The Jug Bay Chapter's second year saw a fifty percent decrease in membership, twelve monthly meetings with excellent speakers, and twenty-two field trips, which garnered 293 bird species plus many wildflowers, plants, mammals, reptiles and amphibians. The loss of membership is of great concern and according to our survey is due to three folks leaving the state, one out-of-stater who expressed financial problems and the remainder who expressed a lack of confidence in the state organization stating dissatisfaction with the 1985-1986 state slate of officers and lack of timely receipt of the promised journal, *Maryland Birdlife*.

Officers for 1986-1987 are: President, John Gregoire; Vice, Jean Tierney; Treasurer, Renee Burns; Secretary, Mike Callahan; and Trustee, Sue Dorney.

During the past year the chapter maintained four active banding projects in the areas of raptor, bluebird, and spring migrant studies. We also began a project intended to assist cavity nesters that are in trouble, with focus on Common Barn-Owl, American Kestrel and Great Crested Flycatcher. Nest boxes were constructed and emplaced and are currently being monitored. We offered our assistance to extend this program statewide.

John Gregoire, President

KENT COUNTY CHAPTER

Kent County Chapter hosted six speakers and screened one film at monthly meetings, and two members hosted feeder watches during January and February. We continue to sponsor the Lower Kent Christmas Count which was again a success, but we still must rely on many non-members as observers. We also continue to participate in the Statewide May Count. Two of our members have assumed the responsibility for counting and compiling the Queen Anne's County May Count. Several of our members are participating in the atlas project. Fall banding was again held at Damsite, staffed by Jim and Trish Gruber. The catch of the season was a Northern Saw-whet Owl. A new Bluebird Committee has been formed to set up and maintain a trail through the county as part of Most. Nest boxes are in place and are being monitored.

Some non-birding activities were also part of our agenda. A very successful yard sale was held in September to raise funds. In October we participated in the Chestertown Wildlife Art Show and sale. We featured the Maryland Wildlife Stamp, which we sold along with fieldlists, checklists, and sanctuary guides. Both activities were excellent ways of increasing our visibility to the community. Finally, we enjoyed hosting the March MOS Board of Directors' meeting followed by a bird walk.

Our major concern is our declining membership. It is difficult to maintain participation in chapter and state activities with fewer and fewer members.

New officers were elected in April and take office on July 1st. President, Margaret H. Jones; Vice-President, John Lorenz; Treasurer, Van Wolf; Secretary, Clara-Ann Simmons.

Carol B. McCollough, President

PATUXENT BIRD CLUB

In an effort to increase its membership, the Patuxent Bird Club continued to hold its meetings in the 600-seat U.S. Department of Agriculture auditorium in Beltsville, where as many as 55 people occasionally showed up for chapter meetings. During 1985-86 we determined that mailing a reminder postcard a few days before our meetings resulted in a 100% increase in attendance. Among those on our slate of excellent speakers were John (Bud) Taylor ("Birds in Art"), Luther Goldman ("Wildlife of East Africa"), Ben Poscover ("M.O.S. Sanctuaries"), Bob Whitcomb ("Birds and Flowers of Australia and New Zealand"), and Paul Nistico ("World Birding"). Eleanor Robbins continued her tradition of generously donating the profits from her book sales at our meetings to the chapter for contribution to the M.O.S. Sanctuary and Scholarship Programs.

At our March meeting we elected Sam Droege as our President for 1986-87. An active chapter member in the 1970's, Sam had been sorely missed during his years as a student at Syracuse University. With Sam's prudent guidance, the chapter decided to forego offering field trips in 1986-87 and instead to concentrate on locating exceptionally fine speakers for our meetings.

William L. Murphy, President

TALBOT COUNTY CHAPTER

The Talbot County Chapter had its usual full schedule of monthly meetings, breakfast birdwalks, and field trips to more distant destinations. The monthly lectures featured "Strange Creatures of Australia" by Bob Trever, "Birding in China" by Don Messersmith, "Gull Identification" by Claudia Wilds, "The Amazon Rain Forest" by Bob Trever, "Cape Breton to Monterey" by Donald Merritt, "Spring Warblers" by Dr. J.W. Oberman, "Conservation Legislation of Interest to Birders" by Anneke Davis, and "The Everchanging Barrier Islands" by Dr. Lee Merrill.

In addition to the 16 fall and 8 spring local birdwalks, we participated in the St. Michaels Christmas Count (89 species by 31 observers) and the Statewide Bird Count on May 3 (148 species by 6 observers). The second annual crab feast in August was attended by 30 of our 113 members.

Our Chapter is to receive \$1,000 from the Waterfowl Festival, which will be used to present four conservation education programs in the Talbot County schools in 1986-87.

Virginia S. Graebert, President

WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAPTER

The Washington County Ornithological Society meets at 7:30 on the fourth Tuesday of the month, September through April. This year we changed our meeting place to a lecture room in the Washington County Education Building, near the Planetarium, in Hagerstown. In summer, we have outdoor meetings only.

With the atlas project entering its fourth year, Washington County is keeping pace and all blocks are covered.

A memorial bird watch area has been designated (a part of the Marsh Garden of Mabel Walters Arboretum at Hagerstown Junior College) in honor of our late member, Doris Ruthraff.

Bird walks have been conducted at least monthly. Among these we made one visit to the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center to observe the work being done with cranes, eagles, and condors. The visit was arranged by Cam and Norma Lewis.

Our Christmas Count day was outstandingly beautiful weatherwise, and 85 species (a record) were seen. There were over 40 participants in the count. We had five new birds to document. Frances Cutshall was our compiler.

Over 40 persons attended our Nature Study Weekend at the Outdoor School on Fairview Mountain. Mary Corderman and Marilyn Rohrer were co-chairmen of this year's session.

Our Program Chairman, Frances Cutshall, arranged interesting meeting activities. For example, Taylor, who painted the scenes for both the 1985 and 1986 Maryland Conservation Stamps, gave us an illustrated talk and discussion on how different artists treat birds both as part of a landscape and as a portrait of the bird.

Hawk Watching from South Mountain (for the Hawk Migration Association of North America) continues to produce record numbers of sightings. This year in 430 observation hours, 5545 total hawks and eagles were counted. Mary Corderman is a major contributor of observer hours, and a promoter of this work in Washington County.

Raymond and Betty McCoy, Co-Presidents

WICOMICO CHAPTER

The Wicomico Chapter enjoyed a very successful year. Our membership is steady with many new members and guests joining us for the monthly meetings. The programs have been well planned and publicized. The 12 field trips were well attended. Several new trips were added this year. A Big Day in May was a first time event for us and hopefully will become an annual one. Several members participated in the Christmas Counts held throughout the area in December; we again sponsored the Salisbury Count.

The financial status of the Chapter is good. We have been able to make matching fund donations to the MOS fund drive. We have not had to do any major fundraising to support our activities. We have an active committee that looks after Irish Grove Sanctuary. We also have a large bluebird trail that is supported and maintained by Robert Reynolds.

This year one of our young members, Colin McAllister, was recognized by the MOS Education Committee with a Junior Achievement in Ornithology Award. Gail and Charlie Vaughn continue to work on a summer project to band Purple Martins with the help of several other members. We look forward to the 1986-87 season as a year of continued growth and continued good birding here on the Eastern Shore.

Maureen McAllister, President



CONTENTS, SEPTEMBER 1986

First Baltimore County Record of	
Black-necked Stilt	<i>Hank Kaestner</i> 59
Spring Migration, March 1-May 31, 1986	<i>Robert F. Ringler</i> 60
White-fronted Goose in Cecil County	<i>Glenn D. Therres</i> 79
Minutes of the Annual Meeting, M.O.S.,	
June 7, 1986	<i>Helen Ford</i> 80
Annual Report of the Treasurer,	
May 1, 1985-Apr. 30, 1986	<i>Emily D. Joyce</i> 82
Auditing Committee Report	<i>Rodney B. Jones</i> 85
President's Report, 1985-1986	<i>Tony White</i> 86
Annual Reports of Local Chapters	<i>Chapter Presidents</i> 87



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